جوردان تايمز يومية معاسلة تصدر بالاستان عن الموسية المحقية الاردنية والراي

Assad holds talks with Solana

DAMASCUS (AP) — Syrian President Hafez AI Assad and Spanish Poreign Minister Javier Solana discussed the Middle East peace process and bilateral relations Saturday, the Syrian Arab News Agency (SANA) said. Talks in the meeting, attended by Syrian Foreign Minister Farouk Al Sharaa, also dealt with Arab-European relations, SANA added. Earlier in the day, Mr. Solana held talks with Mr. Sharaa where the two discussed the situation in the Middle East, ways of boosting bilateral relations, the issue of Palestinian expelles and relations between Syria and the European Community. Mr. Solana was quoted as saying on his arrival in Damascus that the mass expulsion of Palestinians by Israel was illegal and a bad mistake. Mr. Solana, who flew in from Jordan for a 24-hour visit, was welcomed on arrival by Mr. Sharaa. The expulsion "is illegal under all international standards, bad and a big political mistake from the humanitarian point of view," SANA quoted Mr. Solana as saying in an

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Kaaba washed ahead of Ramadan

MECCA (AP) - The Kaaba, Islam's holiest shrine, was washed Saturday in the traditional ritual that takes place a month before the Holy Month of Rama-dao. Meeea Vice-Governor Prince Saud Ben Abdul Mohsen led the traditional ceremony oo behalf of King Fahd. Preachers of the Grand Mosque, where the Kaaba is located, and Medina's Mosque of the Prophet, along with senior government officials, ambassadors of Muslim countries and a number of worshippers participated in the ceremooy which takes place twice a year. The floor of the Kaaba was cleaned with ceramic brooms and water from Zamzam, the well inside the Grand Mosque which has been running since the early boyhood of Prophet Ismail.

Report: Iran has nuclear bomb

MUNICH (AP) - Iran has acquired nuclear weapons from Kazakhstan and Tajikistan and is working on a delivery system for tbe bombs, a German news magazine said Saturday. Focus, a recently started weekly, said two nnclear missile warheads, an atomic bomb and an atomic grenade were supplied to Iran by the two former Soviet republics via a third, Turkmenistan, one year ago. The magazine, in a summary of the article provided to other news media in advance of its publication Monday, said its information came from "U.S. intelligence sources," which it did not identify. The warheads bad a power of 40 kilotonnes, or equal to 40,000 tormes of TNT, Focus said. They bave been made launch-ready by Russian experts,

Knesset members in Calro, may see PLO

CAIRO (R) — Two Israeli members of parliament have arrived in members of the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO). Airport sources said the Knesset members, Ran Cohen and Benny Temkin of the left-wing Meretz Party, arrived in the Egyptian capital Friday. On Saturday the Egyptian paper Al Ahram quoted informed Palestinian sources as saying PLO Chairman Yasser Arafat would meet the Knesset members for two days next week. But the PLO ambassador to Cairo. Saced Kamal, linked a decision on the meeting with the fate of Palestinians expelled by Israel last mooth and stuck in South Lebanon. "No decisioo has been takeo by the Palestinian leadership up until oow oo the matter of a Palestinian-Israeli dialogne at the level of the Knesset," Mr. Kamai told reporters on Saturday. "The first subject before the Plestinian leadership is the expellees ... the fate of this dialogue will be decided after the solution of the subject of the expellees," he added. Last week the Knesset repealed a law ban-ning contacts with the PLO.

Angola claims downing South African plane

JOHANNESBURG (R) — The Angolan government said Saturday it had shot down a South African transport plane flying out of Jamba, the old headquarters in the south of the rebel movement UNITA. "A South African Hercules C-130, flying from Jamba with supplies for National Union for the Total Independence of Angola (UNITA) troops, was hit by government forces yesterday afternoon, crashing in Cachicala-Chiloango," said a statement from the general staff of the Angolan government forces, adding that the incident occurred Friday.



1800

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U.N. team reports Iraqi cooperation

Baghdad laments lack of response to truce, sees 'Bush remnants' influencing Clinton

Combined agency dispatches

U.N. CHEMICAL weapons inspectors returned to the field Saturday and said Iraq was cooperating with them after a two-week delay caused by the latest confrootatioo between Baghdad and the West.
"I have no complaints, coop-

eration was good." team leader Paul Brough said after returning from a site north of the capital where thousands of chemical weapons are being destroyed under terms of the Gulf war

Mr. Brough's team resumed its field work under new Iraqi promises of cooperation, with U.N. inspectors after quarrel and conflict that included U.S. bomb and missile strikes Washington said were meant to force compliance with U.N. resolutions.

One day after the latest U.S. attack, against an alleged radar station io northern Iraq, Mr. Brongh and bis inspectors travelled to the Muthanna state establishment for pesticide production. It was Iraq's main chemical facility 100 kilometres northwest of Baghdad...

A highly-refined form of mustard gas, as well as sarin and tabun nerve agents, were produced at the plant, which covers 170 square kilometres.

It was heavily bombed by the allies during the Gulf war. Large amounts of chemical bombs, shells and warheads, as well as mustard gas and nerve agent stockpiles, were buried under the rubble and leaked.

U.N. inspectors estimated that Muthanna was capable of producing 21/2 tonnes of sarin nerve agent and five tonnes of mustard gas a day. They also concluded that the plant could manufacture VX, a nerve gas and one of the most toxic chemicals ever pro-

Iraqi technicians, under U.N. supervision, began destroying the Muthanna stockpile last year in a specially-built incicerator and hydrolysis plant. That work was interrupted when inspectors left Iraq for Christmas and New Year bobdays. The inspectors were then blocked from returning when Baghdad refused to allow U.N. flights in an argument over the allied "no-fly" zone in southern Irag. _ .

Kevin St. Louis, head of the U.N. special commission field office in Baghdad that is in charge of climinating Iraq's weapons of mass destruction, said full-scale destruction of mustard gas and nerve agent would probably begin Monday

Meanwhile, an open letter to Bill Clinton in a newspaper published by President Saddam Hussein's eldest son expressed regret at the lack of response to Iraq's peace overtures and warned the new U.S. president not to play

The letter io Babel, published after the first two air strikes of the Clinton presidency and signed by leading columnist Mudher Aref, said dialogue was the only way to solve conflicts between nations.

The letter and a signed commentary in the army daily Al Qadissiyab suggested the emergency of a slightly harder line on Mr. Clinton, who moved into the White House Wednes-

But the government newspaper Al Jumhouriyah suggested "remnants of the criminal Bush admioistration" were pushing Mr. .. (Continued on page -5)

Iraqi workers repair the facade of Baghdad's Al Rashid Hotel which was hit in an American missile

attack on Jan. 17 (AFP photo)

Evictees turn down ICRC aid; 17 of them airlifted to Haifa

MARJ AL ZOHOUR, Lebanon (Agencies) - Three British air force helicopters evacuated 17 Palestinian expellees from their icy tent camp in South Lebanon

The expellees, four of them sick and 13 expelled by mistake last month, flew to to the Israeb port of Haifa in an operation arranged by the International Committee of the Red Cross

(ICRC). They and almost 400 other Palestinian evictees have been languishing in South Lebanon since Israel expelled them on

Israeli-occupied West Bank and arm.

Gaza Strip.

ing bebind their "brothers." Those staying gave them an emotional farewell

The returning evictees, waving goodbye to their comrades, pushed their way through to the three waiting choppers, which took off in a rapid succession at sundown heading for Haifa.
"I'm very happy because I'm
going back but at the same time I

feel sad because I'm leaving my friends bebind," said Maher Karim, 26, owner of a restaurant, as he bugged a friend.

The four ailing men locluded two wbo were wounded by Israeli shelling Dec. 21: Amjad Zamel, Israel has said all these expel- 22, who received a sharpnel led by mistake will go straight to wound in his jaw, and Wael jail, not to their homes in the Hindiyyeh, 32, who had a broken

Two mistakenly expelled men, The 17 who left aboard the Mahmoud Aklan, 25, a taxi driv-Wessex helicopters were torn be- er from the Gaza Strip, and Naim tween feelings of happiness because they were going back and sadness because they were leav-

man, Abdol Aziz Rantisi, said the two men were staying "in solidarity with their fellow expellees," who want to force Israel to return all the exiles to their homes in the occupied West Bank

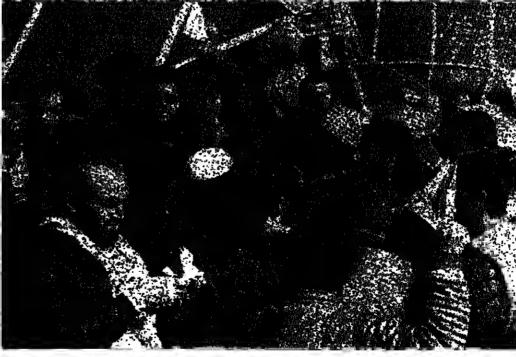
and Gaza Strip.

The evictees also sent back three boxes of medical supplies brought aboard two Royal Air Force belicopters in the morning carrying a four-member team of the all-Swiss ICRC,

The Wessex 5 helicopters, dis-patched from a British base in Cyprus, touched down on a narrow asphalt road near the camp at 10:10 a.m. (0810 GMT) after a brief stop in Haifa.

The evictees parted the ICKC team from eoteriog their makeshift camp and the delegates worked out of two roadside centres 300 metres from the camp. "Our stand is firm: We will not take in any medicine, food or

(Continued on page 3)



letters from their families Saturday at a tent camp

Israelis hit Lebanon after bomb kills soldier

MARJAYOUN, Lebacco (Agencies) — Israeli helicopter gunships blasted villages in South Lebanon Saturday, shortly after a roadside bomb killed an Israeb soldier and wounded two others, security sources said.

The sources said two Cobra gunships mounted five rocketing runs oo the villages in the pinewoods of the Reihan mountain at sundown in Israel's first air raid

on Lebanon this year.

An abandoned school building in one of the villages was demolished by a direct rocket hit. the sources said. They spoke on condition of anonymity.

They said they had no casualty report from the air assault. By police count, 42 people

were killed and 108 wounded in 37 air raids Israel staged in Lebanon in 1992. The raid came an hour after the roadside bomb went off as an

Israeli patrol drove on a road opposite a cluster of villages con-trolled by Hizbollah (Party of God). These villages in Iqlim Al Tuf-fah later came under massive

artillery and tank fire from Israeb positions in a self-styled "security zone" Israel occupies in South Lebanon, the sources said. Two Israeli soldiers were also

wounded in Saturday's bomb attack the sources said.

They said the roadside bomb blew up as an armoured patrol drove along a road east of the village of Arab Salim. One armoured troop carrier was des-

The Shiite Muslim Amai group said its guerrillas planted the bomb and that it exploded as Israeli explosives experts tried to defuse it.

It said two of the experts were killed and four wounded. There was no immediate comment from Israel on the report. The Israeli casualties are the first

this year in South Lebanon. The area is far to the west of the icy piece of land where about 400 Palestinian expellees are stranded between Lebanese and Israeli lines.

Hariri sees new era

Lebanon's Prime Minister Rafik Al Hariri has said his country had left 15 years of civil war behind and emerged as a nation of "peace and reconstruction," the New York Times reported in

(Continued on page 3)

Islamic Jihad is not interested in joining PLO

nians has brought the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) closer to its rivals in the Islamic movement Hamas — but not to the more radical Islamic Jihad.
"Our position is more militant

towards the PLO. Our joining the PLO is not impossible, but not this PLO," Islamic Jihad's secretary general, Fathi Shukaki, told Reuters in an interview late Fri-

The two Islamic groups oppose the PLO's pobcy of peace talks with Israel and have woo increasing support over the last year as Arab-Israeli negotiations failed

to achieve progress.

But the crisis over the expellees, whom Israel accused of sup-porting Hamas and Islamic Jihad. has pushed at least Hamas and the PLO into dialogue.

Palestinian sources say the two sides realised they could no longer ignore one another and they recently met in Khartoum to discuss conditions for Hamas joining the PLO.

kaki said received its main practical support from the radical Islamic government in Iran, is taking a harder line. Dr. Shukaki said he bad con-

Islamic Jihad, which Dr. Shu-

tacts with supporters of PLO Chairman Yasser Arafat but refused to meet the man himself for many reasons. Mr. Arafat, he said, "wants

Islamic Jihad to be a tool in his

DAMASCUS (R) — Israel's exthe Palestinian delegation from

the current peace talks. Dr. Shukaki said Islamic Jihad could contemplate joining only if the PLO reversed its acceptance of U.N. Security Council Resolution 242.

"In my opinioo we cannot (acknowledge) the presence of Israel because this is against our religious rights. This is Palestine, this is not Israel. This is part of the Arab and Islamic world," Dr. Sbukaki said.

"The Zionists do not bave the right to have their state in Palestine. I think this is something

temporary," he said.
Dr. Shukaki, a soft-spoken doctor trained in Egypt, gave the interview in a spartan but newly-decorated and furnished office in the Palestinian refugee camp of Yarmuk, a maze of two and three-storey concrete blocks on the southern edge of Damascus.

He said there was no connec-tion between his Islamic Jihad and Lebanese hostage-takers who had used the same name. Those are secret groops whose organisation, ideology, support and tactical operations

are different. We are an open group with a known leadership. Dr. Shukaki said Islamie Jihad realised that its actions in the occupied territories, where it has claimed responsibility for killing Israelis in a series of knife and gun attacks, would not destroy the Jewish state.

Some of the more than 400 Palestinian expellees stranded in South Lebanon cheer as they receive in South Lebanon (AFP photo)

Israel might allow Jordanian exports to West Bank

By Rana Sabbagh Reuter

AMMAN - Israel has offered to lift its ban on Jordanian exports to the occupied West Bank, Jordanian officials said on Saturday. The proposal could help

Palestinians disengage from the Israeli economy during an interim period of self-rule. Israel banned Jordan from

sending goods to the West Bank after it occupied the area in the 1967 Middle East war. Both countries are still technically in a state of war.

"During the last round of peace talks (in December) the Israelis offered to lift the ban and allow Jordanian goods to go to the West Bank," one official told Reuters.
"We said we were ready for

it but we will only accept to deal with Palestinians, their private sector institutions as well as with the future Palestinian self-governing authority pending the final outcome of the final settlement."

He said the two sides would continue discussing the plan when the peace talks resume sometime early this year.

Under current Israeli regulations, people entering the West Bank through a Jordan River bridge can take in personal goods only.

Jordan continued to buy. West Bank agricultural produce and quarry material of support the Palestinian economy but enforced tight border inspection rules to bar Israeli products in line with an Arab League economic boycott on the Jewish state. Another official said Jorda-

nian peace negotiators handed Israel a list of commodities which Amman could immediately sell to the more than 1.7 million Palestinians living in the West Bank and Gaza. The list includes foodstuffs. pharmaceuticals, detergents,

and refined oil derivatives. "Among the key matters that still have to be settled is the issue of custom tariffs which Israel is insisting oo, and on that key point there are many ideas," be said without giving details.

A flow of business into the West Bank would provide an ontlet for Jordan's stagnant market and help rectify a balance of trade heavily in favour of the occupied areas, which take in about \$200 million a year from the sale of goods to the Kingdom.

Jordan and the Palestinians have already started talks on cooperation during the selfgovernment period which Palestinians hope will lead to an independent state.

Palestinians say untying trade and agriculture links they developed with Israel under 25 years of occupation will lower production costs inflated by taxes and limited suppliers.

Despite the occupation and Jordan's severing of all admi-nistrative links with the West

Bank io 1988, resideots there still use Jordanian currency, carry temporary Jordanian passports and are issued Jordanian birth, marriage and death certificates. Jordanian economist Fahd

Al Faneh criticised the proposal saying it should come only after Israel withdrew from the occupied territories.

"It is a sort of normalisation which is premature," he told Renters. "I think any measure of normalisation must be as a reward... and should come after a political solution."

Jordan and Israel are also discussing proposals to reopen branches of Jordanian banks and insurance firms which were forced to close after the 1967 war.

Senate passes 1993 budget

AMMAN (Petra) — The Upper House of Parliament (Senate) Saturday endorsed the 1993 fiscal budget which was referred to it after endorsement by the Lower

The Senate approval came at a session attended by Prime Minister Sharif Zeid Ben Shaker and Cabinet members during which the Senate listened to a report by its Financial Committee commending the government's performance and presenting proposals concerning problems of unemployment, poverty, education and agriculture.

The report, read out by Salem Masaadeh, the committee's rapporteur, noted with appreciatioo the following:

— A decline in the margin of

deficit in terms of gross domestic product (from 28 per cent in 1988 to eight per cent in 1992); - A decline in the rate of

inflation from 25.7 per cent in 1989 to four per cent in 1992 — A decline in the net amount of external debt from 223 per cent in 1989 to 127 per cent at the end of 1992 in terms of gross domestic product; and — A drop in the deficit in the balance of payment to less than 10 per cent at the start

of this year. The report also noted with appreciation the rise in the foreign currency reserves of the Central Bank of Jordan (CBJ) to \$1,100 million by the end of 1992.

But the report noted with regret the rise in the margin of poverty due, as it said, to per capita income decline between 1986 and 1992 by nearly 45 per cent and the rise in unemploy-

The report estimated that up to 50 per cent of the Jordanian people now live under the poverty line or around its periphery and urged the government to create "a social safety net" to ensure social security and political stability in the Kingdom.

Poverty can be stemmed, recommended the report, only through long-term plans mainly benefiting the limited-income

The report estimated that 160,000 Jordanians are now unemployed and criticised the presence of 176,000 workers in the country.

The report orged the govern-ment to introduce long-term education reforms aimed at meeting the needs of the growing population and the labour mar-ket.

The committee called for an improvement in teachers' performance and standards, reforms at the national universities and vocational training programmes to meet the country's requirements of skilled man-power.

The committee commended the government's financial and monetary policies, which "have resolted in reestablishment of confidence in the country's economy."

The report noted that inflation was reduced to four per cent and Jordanian banks have increased their liquidity of Jordanian and foreign exchanges to create a good opportunity for investors. However, the report cautioned against directing the surplus in liquidity towards rampant consumption.

The committee referred to the question or securing sufficient funds to finance projects like infrastructure and more social service to cope with the growing needs of the population and the hundreds of thousands of expatriates who bave returned home.

The report urged the government to remain committed to implementing investments and lay the infrastructure for investment projects that would in turn yield returns, enabling the goverament to pay back its dues.

The committee commended the government for arranging to pay the former Soviet Union's debts in commodities rather than in cash. It urged the government to follow this step with similar steps with other creditors.

(Continued on page 5)



A Somali boy is comforted by a woman Friday after his mother died from sickness and hunger in the village of Dareemong, located 35 kilometres northwest of Mogadishu, the Somali capital on the Indian

Iraq and Bosnia highlight U.S.-France differences

By Terril Jones
The Associated Press

PARIS — As the jousting with Iraq escalated to bombing runs this month, France took part in the pumishment while seeming to attack

its American partner at the same ome.

Its haughty reaction Sunday, after U.S. forces launched cruise missiles on a factory outside Baghdad, left diplomats scratching their heads. The same defence ministry that ordered French jets into action on previous days described Sunday's operation as

Washington was further startled this week when the senior government spokesman, Louis Mermaz, quoted Foreign Minister Roland Dumas as saying the Baghd of raids exceeded the mandate of U.N. Security Council resolutions.

The next day, the foreign ministry refused to confirm Mr. Dumas

had made the statement.

Americans are not the only ones puzzled. Many in France feel their foreign policy is in disarray after the Iraq murkiness and

Last week, Mr. Dumas said France was prepared to liberate single-handedly detention camps run by Serbs in Bosnia. He backpedalled when alarm was expressed that France might act outside the authority of the United Nations.

"The foreign ministry has the irritating tendency recently of displaying pitiful weakness," editorialist Patrick Sabatier said Thursday in the newspaper Liberation.

The ministry "makes it appear, without daring to say it, that France is no longer on the same wavelength with its anti-coalition ally," Mr. Sabatier said. "One wonders whether this verbal

inconsistency is a sign of thoughtlessness, or worse, incoherence." "There is no coherence in the government's overtures," said Charles Pasqua, the conservative former interior minister. "Not when it is reduced to turning Kouchner into both the foreign and

defence minister. Health Minister Bernard Kouchner, an advocate of bumanita rian intervention, recently helped negotiate a prisoner exchange in

The France-American friction harks back to the 1991 Gulf war, when in the heat of battle France's defence minister abruptly

resigned, complaining about America. U.S. officials in Paris say there are feelings in Washington that France is an unreliable ally, chafing at U.S. dominance of world affairs and itching to do something on its own.

There is resentment on both sides over acrimonious trade

negotiations under the General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade. The Bush administration targeted with penalty tariffs late last year, and a trade war was only barely averted.

U.S. officials say they are still puzzled over Mr. Dumas' outburst. France and the United States had been in almost seamless agreement on Iraq prior to his remarks.

One diplomatic source said Mr. Dumas could be feeling pressured over the March elections, which are expected to sweep in a conservative government and cost Mr. Dumas his job. Paris and Washington have reconciled, however, over the role of

the North Atlantic Treaty Organisation (NATO) and the Western European Union, the fledgling military wing of the European Community.

Last summer the alliances practically tripped over each other rushing ships to enforce the arms embargo on Bosnia. Officials say there has been progress in recent months to coordinate their

On Thursday, Annual Confidence Is agreed that in an emergency a 35.000-member French-German army corps created in 1991 would be under NATO command.

The corps had been seen as a potential competitor to NATO. France belongs to the alliance but is not within its joint military

U.S. said working with allies on Israel Somalia handover resolution

WASHINGTON (Agencies) — The United States has begun consultations with allies on a formal United Nations resolution that would shift command of forces in Somalia to the world body, according to a senior State department official.

The official, who spoke on condition of anonymity, said consultations began more than a week ago "for a new resolution enlarging and strengthening the U.N. presence."

Ever since the extraordinary American-led effort began in December to use military troops to protect convoys bringing food to starving Somalis, the United States has encouraged participat-ing countries to offer troops that would stay in the country after the Americans depart, he said.

'So it is from a practical matter something that we've been working on and now we're at the phase where we're starting to work on the U.N. resolution in consultation with others that will do

that," the official said. The first unit; of U.S. Marines left Somalia for home Tuesday and Wednesday after handing over their duties in the faminestricken southern town of Baidoa to Australian replacements.

The U.S.-led force, numbering 36,000 men from 20 countries, has secured Somalia'a towns, air-

ports and ports, and escorted food convoys to the main famine

The chief U.N. representative in Somalia, Ismat Kittani, dis-puted U.S. assertions Monday that the U.N would take over total command of forces in Soma-

lia in about two weeks. The spokesman for U.S. forces in Somalia bad said in Mogadishu he thought the handover from an American-led task force could be accomplished in "a couple of

U.N. sources said U.S. and United Nations officials had decided on a phased transition with two commands operating until the U.N. forces took control of most of the areas now run by

There are about 25,000 U.S. military personnel in Somalia now, along with 11,000 additional Idiers from 20 other countries. The United Nations expects to have 15,000 to 20,000 forces nnder its command after most

American troops withdraw.

The Security Council must still adopt a resolution mandating the new operation and authorising rules of engagement.

A Somali youth climbed a wall at a U.S. Marine compound in northern Mogadisbu Friday and was shot to death after he threatened a sentry with a pistol, officials said.

Another Somali man was wounded by Marine gunfire as he and three others tried to run a roadblock set up on the street outside the compound moments after the initial shooting.

Also Friday, gunmen in Moga-dishu opened fire at three relief agency vehicles, injuring four people, including a Swede, a U.N. official said.

The vehicles belonging to the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC), Save the Children, and Swedrelief, a Swedisb aid agency, were attacked about 250 metres from the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF) office, said the official who did not want to be identified. A Swede working for Swedre-

lief suffered a minor injury on his hand and a Somali working for the agency was also slightly injured, the official said. Two ICRC employees, believed to be Somalis, were also burt, but the extent of their injuries was not known. No one was injured in the Save the Children vehicle, the

The shooting at the Marine compound was the second shooting incident of the day.

Department said afterward

The Clinton administration

would like the Arabs to defer any drive for U.N. sanctions. against

Israel until after the Israeli sup-

reme court rules on the expul-

sion. The court is expected to rule

In addition, administration

officials want to evaluate a report

by a U.N. fact-finding mission

that returned Friday from a visit

with the evictees, who are camped in southern Lebanon.

Egypt, Jordan, Lebanon, Saudi Arabia and Syria were repre-

sented in the meeting, held at

their request. The department's

brief statement said Mr. Djere-

jian told them the United States

consults closely with the United

Meanwhile, Zalman Shoval,

Israel's ambassador to the United

States, stressed in an interview

the expulsion was temporary and

the Palestinians bad a right to

ambassador to Syria, is trying to

get Jordan, Lebanon, Syria,

Palestinians and Israel to agree to

resume negotiations on a Middle

East settlement and self-rule for

Palestinians in the Israeli-occu-

Mr. Djerejian, a former U.S.

Nations on the matter.

appeal the order.

early next week.

honours its harshest critic

TEL AVIV (AP) --- To his fans, Yeshayahn Leibowitz is the modem incarnation of an angry old testament prophet. To his critics, be is a crank who delights in insulting Israel's most hallowed institutions.

The 90-year-old professor who says Israel should give up Arab and has been named to receive the Israeli prize for lifetime

The awarding of Israel's bigh-est honour to its harshest critic has touched off an emotional debate that goes to the core of Israel's complicated self-image as a democracy and a Jewisb nationalist homeland.

"I'm disgusted," said former Prime Minister Yitzhak Shamir. Angry calls flooded radio talk shows. Legislators and army officers protested. Prime Ministe Yitzhak Rabin asked at a cabinet meeting whether the award could

be withdrawn. A three-member committee. appointed by the education minister, awards the Israel prize each year to a dozen recipients. Some past winners have been Arab poet Emile Habibi another controversial choice and conductor Zubin Mebta. The

honour includes a \$7,500 prize. Education Minister Shulamit Aloni, a leftist, told Mr. Rabin she could not interfere with the committee's choice.

Dr. Leibowitz emerged as a voice of dissent in 1967, when he warned that Israel's "triumphs" in the 1967 war would turn to ashes unless it quickly withdrew from the Arab territories it bad just occupied.

"I wrote on the seventh day that this brilliant military victory will prove to be a bistorical and political disaster for the state of Israel," Dr. Leibowitz said re-

Against the euphoria of the time, his was a voice in the wilderness and might have gone unnoticed if Dr. Leibowitz had not been one of Israel's finest and

most eclectic minds.

Born in Latvia and educated in Germany, he is a professor of biochemistry and neurophysiology, an authority on Jewish phihy and religion, and **an** e tor of the Hebrew encyclopedia.

He also is an orthodox Jew who wears a black skulkap, prays daily in synagogue, and delights his secular audiences by his contempt for Israel's religious estab-Dr. Leibowitz argues that the

domination of two million Palestinians has corrupted Israel and given rise to a "Judeo-Nazi mentality in certain circles." The elderly professor was

asked sarcastically on a talk sbow if be believed Israel would put Palestinians in concentration camps and kill them in gas cham-"It is known to me that the state of Israel is keeping

tion camps," he replied, referring to camps for Palestinian prisoners. Dr. Leibowitz says soldiers

thousands of Arabs in concentra-

should refuse to serve in the occupied lands. Our problem is not to liberate

the Palestinians; our problem is to liberate Israel from this curse." he said in an interview in his ony, book-crammed study in West Jerusalem.

Dr. Leibowitz believes many share bis views but "lack the courage to say clearly what they

"I am their voice," he said, looking up from under bushy gray eyebrows, his frail body hunched forward. He said Mr. Rabin agrees with his call for territorial withdrawal "but lacks the courage" to campaign for it publicly.

MIDDLE EAST NEWS IN BRIEF Saudi king invites Afghans to talks

DUBAI (R) — King Fahd, appealing for an end to the fighting in Kabul, has invited warring Afghan mujahedeen groups to meet in Saudi Arabia for talks on ways to settle their differences. "In the name of Islam, I urge you to lay down your arms and let reason, conscience and logic govern you," the king said in a statement carried by the official Saudi Press Agency late Friday. "I address to you a sincere invitation to Saudi Arabia to meet...and discuss your views and differences." The Saudi monarch, amon the world's most influential Muslim leaders as the custodian of is am's holiest shrines, issued bis appeal against a backgroun's of intensified fighting in Afghanistan. More than 100 people were wounded in Kabul alone on Thursday. Saudi Arabia was one of the major backers of the Mujahedeen groups during their 14-year war against the Soviet-installed government that was swept from power last April. In bis announcement King Fahd reminded Mujahedeen groups of Saudi Arabia's former support, mostly in cash for military equipment. Saudi Arabia also gave tanks, artiflery and rockets captured from Iraq during the Gulf war.

Kuwaiti elected head of U.N. food agency

ROME (AP) - A Kuwaiti banker who directed the rebuilding of his country after the Gulf war has been elected president of the International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD), the U.N. agency announced Friday. Fawzi Hamad Al Sultan, 48, was elected in a closed session of IFAD's governing council Thursday. IFAD, created in 1977, makes loans for projects to grow food and ease rural poverty in developing countries. Unlike other U.N. agencies, the Rome-based IFAD gets its money through periodic fund-raising drives rather than assessing its members. To be elected, a candidate must receive at least two-thirds of 1,800 votes. After two rounds of voting, Mr. Sultan had received 953 votes, while a candidate from Venezuela, Enrique Ter Horst, had 349. Mr. Ter Horst then withdrew his candidacy, allowing Mr. Sultan to be elected by consensus, said IFAD spokeswoman Jacky Sutton. Mr. Sultan succeeds Idriss Jazairy of Algeria. Mr. Sultan was managing director of the Bank of Kuwait and the Middle East and director of research at the Kuwait Fund for Arab Economic Development. In the aftermath of the Gulf war, he led the Kuwait emergency and recovery programme, which oversaw the rebuilding of the emirate's economy.

Church group victim of 'Jewish soap' hoax

LANTANA, Florida (R) — A local church group dedicated to fighting anti-Semitism has been inundated with phone calls after a hoaxer ran a newspaper advertisment saying it was selling "bars of Jewish human soap." The Florida Christian Task Force, a little-known group which does not even have a listed telephone number, was deluged with phone calls this week after someone placed a small advertisement in the Fort Lauderdale Sun-Sentinel. "Bar of Jewish human soap. Real WWII relic, \$50," the ad said. It listed the phone number of the church group, The Sun-Sentinel published a prominent page three apology, saying the ad had slipped through in error. It appeared in a section of free advertisements for bargains priced at \$50 or less. "The Sun-Sentinel inadvertently published an ethnically offensive classified ad in Wednesday's editions. The Sun-Sentinel apologies and has taken appropriate action to ensure a mistake like this does not .recur," it said. The church group said it received dozens of calls, most expressing horror or anger but a few inquiring about the soap. The church group Friday was not answering its phone. Callers beard a taped message explaining that it had been the victim of a hoax and that anti-Semitism is "the very thing we stand against."

European stand elates Greek Cypriots

NICOSIA (AP) - Greek Cypriots were elated and Turkish Cypriots angered Friday by a European Parliament resolution denouncing the Turkish occupation of north Cyprus. "Undoubtedly this is one of the finest resolutions we have had from this forum and a strong weapon for promoting a Cyprus settlement and entry to the European Community," said Andreas Mavromatis, the spokesman of the government controlled by Greek Cypriots. Kenan Atakol, the foreign minister of the breakaway Turkish Cypriot state, said: "The European Parliament had no right or jurisdiction to adopt such a resolution. We shall not accept it." The breakaway state in the Turkish-occupied part of the island is recognised only by Turkey. The resolution adopted Thursday blamed the Turkish Cypriot side for the lack of progress in U.N.-sponsored negotiations for the reunification of the island in a two-zone federation. The Enropean Parliament resolution "reaffirms its conviction that the continuation of the status quo in Cyprus is unacceptable and poses wider threats to the region." It also "calls upon the government of Turkey to withdraw it occupation troops from the Republic of Cyprus in accordance with the relevant U.N. resolutions."

Sri Lanka regrets strikes against Iraq

COLOMBO (R) - Sri Lanka said Friday it deeply regretted civilian casualties in recent allied air strikes against Iraq. "Recent air attacks on Iraq have caused civilian casualties in Iraq which the government deeply regrets. The tragic loss of innocent lives must be averted," Foreign Minister Harold Herat told parliament. He said all unsettled issues should be pursued in terms of United Nations resolutions. "There should be no recourse to unilateral action which is not in keeping with the purpose and spirit of U.N. resolutions," Mr. Herat said. "Any escalation of the conflict in Iraq is likely to have grave repercussions, which would extend beyond the Gulf region and cause a threat to international peace and security.

Turkey seizes 72 kg of heroin

... Dubai, Abu Dhabi (RJ) Doba, Bahrain (RJ)

. Brusseis, Paris (R.I)

Athens (R)

Cairo (GF)

10:00 10:15

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14-75

ANKARA (R) — Turkish gendarmes seized 72 kilogrammes of heroin Friday hidden in an abandoned car in the eastern town of Baskale, Anatolia news agency said. The agency said the heroin was sealed in 102 plastic bags. Security forces were looking for the car's owner. Turkey is on a major drug trafficking route from Afghanistan to Western Europe through Pakistan and Iran.

Israeli cabinet members favour compromise in expulsion crisis TEL AVIV (Agencies) — The majority of cabinet members in Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin's they would agree to a compromise "which would involve ...an discussed the deportation issue early return of all or most of with a w toward resolving it in a constructive manner," the State

government want to make a compromise that will bring to an end the matter of the Palestinian evictees, Israel Television reported

Ten of the 18 ministers said in an anonymous poll that interna-tional pressure as well as stalled peace talks warranted a compromise that included the return of many of the over 400 alleged Muslim fundamentalist activists. the television said. Seven told Israel Television the decision should stand at any price and one refused to answer.

The television stressed that the results of the poll would not necessarily be mirrored in the cabinet which bolds open votes. But the poll showed the change of mind that has taken place since the cabinet's near unanimous decision Dec. 17 to expel the Palestinians.

Israel, meanwhile, is seeking to delay a U.N. Security Council debate on the issue until after Israel's supreme court has ruled on the issue, media reports said.

Also Friday, an Israeli daily quoted a government source as saying a defence ministry check found an additional 10 of the 415 Palestinians expelled last month to Lebanon were ousted by mis-

In the poll by Israel Television's political affairs reporter, 10

Seven ministers said the government should stick to its original decision to expel the Palestinians for periods ranging from nine months to two years.

Almost all the ministers said the decision to expel them. approved by the cabinet with one abstention, was right at the time. Those who favoured a compromise said it was necessary in light of international developments resulting from the expulsion. The U.N. Security Council, the

European Community and the United Nations. Israel's chief ally, have criticised the expulsions, and nrged Israel to take back the Palestinians. The Security Council is ex-

pected to convene soon to decide measures against Israel for its refusal to abide by Resolution 799, which demands Israel let the evictees return. Three missions to Israel by

special U.N. envoys have failed.

Arab pressure

Diplomats from five Arab countries have called at the State Department to try to bring pressure on Israel to allow the Palestinians to return.

The diplomats presented an Arab League statement to Assistant Secretary of State Edward of the 18 cabinet ministers said Djerejian demanding that Israel

pied West Bank and Gaza Strip. He met with the Arab diplomats for about an hour.

10 killed in Erbil carbomb tral and crowded area at 1310

exploded in the kurdish-held Iraqi city of Erbil, killing at least 10 people and wounding many more, relief sources said Satur-

"A big carbomb went off Friday and a number of people were killed and many more people were wounded," one source told Reuters.

The source, quoting relief workers in the area, said the death toll in the northern Iraqi city was at least 10. In Ankara Friday, a Kurdish party official said eight people

were killed and 120 wounded in the explosion. "The bomb exploded in a cen-

USEFUL TELEPHONE

NUMBERS

NIGHT DUTY

AMMAN:

local time. It also wrecked many nearby stores and cars," the official from the Patriotic Union of Kurdistan (PUK) told reporters. Serchii Qazzaz, the PUK representative in Ankara, said the blast occurred at a shopping area

nating the town. Safeen Dizayee, another Iraqi Kurdish representative, said the explosion "set off by a time device attached to a car left unattended in the atreet for a while," had killed 11 and injured

around the ancient castle domi-

A U.S. officer, heading a Western military mission in the Kurdish town of Zakho near the

Turkish border, confirmed the blast, but gave a smaller toll figure. The officer, speaking of condition of anonymity, said five people were killed and 40 to 50 others were wounded. It was not immediately possible

reported casualties. The blast was the most deadly in a series of attacks since last

to account for the differences in

Carbombs, grenade or rocket attacks mainly targeting the personnel and premises of the U.N. and other international relief agencies resulted in several U.N.

JORDAN TIMES DAILY GUIDE AND CALENDAR

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WEATHER

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HOME NEWS IN RRIEF

Queen Noor attends plano recital

BRb.

27

AMMAN (J.T.) — Her Majesty Queen Noor Saturday patronised at the Royal Cultural Center a piano recital by Ammar Hachicho. The recital, organised by Noor Al Hussein Founda-tion's (NHF) National Music Conservatory (NMC), included pieces by Bach, Beethoven, Bartok, Tchaikovsky and Liszet. Mr. Hachicho was born in Germany to a Jordanian father and a Lebanese mother. A first prize winner of a number of German competitions for young musicians, Mr. Hachicho began performing in public at the age of II, and had his first public recital as a piano soloist in 1983. All proceeds of Saturday's recital will go to support the Scholarship Fund of the Needy and Talented Outstanding Students of the Conservatory, which also draws for its financial resources on local private contributions. Ten per cent of the conservatory's needy students benefit from this fund each year. The event was sponsored by Lufthansa German Airlines in cooperation with Jiris Rihani and Sons Co. In addition to Her Majesty, the recital was attended by the Minister of Information, members of the NHF Board of Trustees, the NHF president and members of the NMC's Steering Committee.

Cabinet plans International activities

AMMAN (Petra) — The Council of Ministers Saturday decided to send a delegation to Hungary Monday to hold talks on Jordanian-Hungarian civil aviation cooperation. The Civil Aviation Authority director will lead the Jordanian delegation on the three-day visit. The council also decided that Jordan take part in a tourist exhibition to open in Madrid on January 26. It said Jordan will be represented by the Ministry of Tourism and Royal jordanian, as well as the private sector. Jordan will have its own pavilion at the week-long Madrid exhibition. The Cabinet delegated Mr. Ahmad Nawayi, director seneral of the Telecomgated Mr. Ahmad Nawawi, director general of the Telecom-munications Corporation (TCC) to attend the 64th meeting of the Board of Directors of the Arab Satellite Communication Organisation to open in Dubai Feb. 13.

Envoy to Senegal presents credentials

DAKAR (Petra) - Jordan's ambassador to Morocco Adnan Al Talhouni Saturday presented his credentials as Jordan's nonresident ambassador in Dakar to Senegal's President Abdo Diouf. Mr. Talhouni conveyed to Mr. Diouf His Majesty King Hussein'a greetings and wishes of further progress and prosperity to the people of Senegal. Mr. Diouf commended "the international reputation Jordan enjoys as a result of King Hussein's wise leadership." He said he was looking forward to visiting Jordan as soon as possible in response to an invitation extended to him by

Jordan's ambassador meets Yemeni minister

SANAA (Petra) — Yemeni Educatioo Minister Mohammad Al Ja'efi met Saturday with the Jordanian ambassador to Yemen to discuss the prospect of Jordan's seconding new teachers to his country. The meeting also involved discussions on means of enhancing bilateral relations in educational fields.

1st batch of marine police to graduate

AMMAN (Petra) — The first batch of marine police will graduate m Aqaba Monday, in a ceremony to be attended by Public Security Department (PSD) Director Major-General Fadel Ali Fuheid. PSD sources said this group will form the nucleus of the marine police force which will join the rest of the PSD forces io maintaining national security. The maio task of the force will be maintaining security in Aqaba and combating drug trafficking in the port city, the sources said.

JVFA recommends interest exemption

AMMAN (Petra) — The Board of Directors of the Jordan Valley Farmers Association (JVFA), held a meeting Saturday and discussed a primary report by the federation's secretary general on the effects of the frost wave which swept the Jordan Valley Jan. 17-18. The board recommended that the government exempt farmers from interest on loans granted in 1992 and 1993, and urged the government to extend new interest-free loans to farmers whose crops were damaged by frost. It also called for establishing an agricultural fund, whose revenues will be used in building dams and planting trees.

NAF gives Tafileh JD 330.156

TAFILEH (Petra) — The National Aid Fund (NAF) extended JD 330,156 in assistance to 1,084 families in Tafileh in 1992, NA Tafileh Director Zeid Ma'abreh said Saturday. Mr. Ma'abreh said JD 36,300 was extended to 26 cases to help them start their own income-generating projects, and JD 2,693 were offered to 10 cases to help them buy hearing aids, glasses and wheel chairs. He said by the end of 1992 the fund had established 127 projects at a total cost of JD 173,700.

Geography experts discuss map-making

AMMAN (Petra) - A Jordanian-Tunisian technical committee met Saturday at the Royal Jordanian Geographic Centre in Amman. The committee discussed joint production of maps and serial photography programmes. It also discussed scopes of bilateral cooperation and activating the role of the Jordanian-Tunisian Coordination Bureau which was set up by the committee. The committee's meetings will last for four days.

Jordanian-cyclist to begin stage 5

AMMAN (Petra) - Jordanian traveller and cyclist Ali Al 'Utoum has recently ended the fourth stage of his world tour, started at the end of 1990. The fourth stage which began Dec. 5 included Oman, Bahrain, Qatar and the United Arab Emirates. In the earlier stages, Mr. Utoum visited Syria, Lebanon, Iraq, Egypt, Libya, Tunisia, Morocco, Algeria, Turkey, Bulgaria and Yugoslavia. He told the Jordan News Agency, Petra, that the fifth stage of the tour will include the United States. Mexico and Canada. He said the objective of the tour is to highlight the cultural image of Jordan abroad and to familiarise himself with the life of people in other countries.

WHAT'S GOING ON

EXHIBITIONS

- * Exhibition entitled "Latin American Countries in France" at the French Cultural Centre.
- * Exhibition entitled "Modernist Still Life Photographed" at the American Centre.
- * Exhibition entitled "Dhana, a Village from South Jordan' isplaying photos and other items on the village at the Royal Cultural Centre.

Israelis bomb Lebanese villages

(Continued from page 1)

its Friday editions. "The kidnapping of foreign nationals and hijacking of aircraft

are something of the past," Mr. Hariri told the newspaper, in a reference to incidents of lawlessness which had plagued his coun-

Mr. Hariri said he hoped the new U.S. administration of President Bill Clinton would lift a seven-year-old ban on the travel of U.S. citizens to Lebanon and on flights to New York by Lebanor's national airline.

These American measures are

hurting Lebanon as our country

embarks on an era of peace and reconstruction," he said.
Mr. Hariri said Lebanon was ready to conclude a peace treaty

with Israel, but made a treaty conditional on similar pacts reached by other Arab countries involved in the Middle East peace

"We and our Arab colleagues entered the peace talks together, and whatever decision that needs to be taken on the matter we will take together," Mr. Hariri told

Ministry urges quality

AMMAN (Petra) - A training seminar on quality control in the industrial sector opened Saturday at the Philadelphia Hotel io Am-

Secretary General of the Mioistry of Industry and Trade Marwan Awad delivered an opening address stressing the importance of the industrial sector in the economic development process.

Mr. Awad said other economic sectors, which are reliant on the industrial and services sectors, lack the infrastructure needed for their development.

The industrial sector, he said, constitutes 25 per cent of the gross domestic product (GDP), which underlines the need to pay due attention to this sector.

This can be done by replacing imported commodities with locally-manufactured ones and encouraging Jordanian industrialists to export their commodities, Mr. Awad said.

To achieve these two goals the industrial sector should focus on quality products at reasonable prices, the secretary general said. Mr. Awad said the Ministry of Industry and Trade is concerned with the quality of products, which prompted it to establish the Specifications and Standards De-

He added that the ministry is planning to establish an independent directorate to look into such

Director of the Specifications of Standards Department Hassan Al Saoudi delivered an address in which he said that holdiog the seminar was part of the activities of the Jordanian-German project for developing specifications and standards in Jordan.

Mr. Saudi expressed hope that other courses and seminars on quality control will be held in the future.

He said the national industry has achieved progress over the past years in terms of quality and quantity. It has also managed to he competitive in the local market as well as abroad, he said.

Assiras Qassir, Deputy Director of the German Agency for Techoical Cooperation (GTZ) office in Amman, which is organising the course in cooperation with the specifications department, focused on the importance of quality cootrol in her address.

She said the European Community Market sets certain specifications for any commodity imported from abroad. Ms. Qassir said the significance

of holding training courses in the field of industrial quality has a pivotal role in marketing com-modities locally or abroad. Participating in the six-day

seminar are 30 engineers who will discuss the basic principles of quality control, statistical techniques, ways of selecting samples and other related issues.

Exhibit focuses on Dana

AMMAN (J.T.) — Minister of Tourism Yanal Hikmat and Prench Ambassador to Jordan Denis Bouchard Sorday will open an exhibition of photo-graphs and drawings by French artist Michele Bievers depicting Dana in southern Jordan.

On display at the Royal Cultural Centre (RCC) in Amman, the exhibitioo will ruo until the end of January.
Dr. Bievers has conducted re-

search on Dana, which was established several centuries ago and claims a number of archaeologic-The village has 150 citizens

who live on raising sheep and Nearby the village, is the Wild-

life Reserve of Dana founded by the Royal Society for the Conservation of Nature (RSCN). duced at the exhibition.

Located in a scenic area of the Rift Valley, the reserve covers 100 square kilometres, and is one of the few areas of Jordan where a viable population of larger mammals, including the mountain gazelle, ibex and striped byena, survive, according to the RSCN.

The RSCN is currently implementing a restoration programme at the archaeological sites of Dana, with other Jordanian organisations and Mioistries io an effort to help local residents ensure an adequate income, particularly through services to tourists to the region.

Dr. Bievers has published 70 page book on her studies of the region in Arabic and French. The illustrated book will be intro-

Jordan mourns Suleiman Al Hadidi

By a Jordan Times Staff Reporter

SALT - One of Jordan's most prominent lawyers and a former Minister, Suleiman Al Hadidi, was laid to rest in his hometown of Salt Saturday.

dr. Hadidi, who died Friday of a heart attack was born in Salt in 1923. A 1944 graduate of law from Damascus Uoiversity, be served in a number of governmeot positions and held the cabinet post of minister of interior several times.

Mr. Hadidi also served as president of the Jordanian Bar Association and beld the post of assistant secretary general of the Arab Lawyers Federation.

His Majesty King Hussein de-legated Balqa Governor Eid Al Qatameh to attend the funeral and to offer his condolences to

the Hadidi family and clan. His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan delegated the director of the Balqa Police Department to convey his condo-

lences to the Hadidi family. Speaker of the Lower House of Parliament, Dr. Abdul Latif Arabiyat, Speaker of the Palestine National Council Sheikh Abdul Hamid Al Sayeh and notable Jordanian personalities, together with heads of political groups and private and public organisations



Suleiman Al Hadidi in the Kingdom attended the funeral in Salt.

The secretary general of the Arab Lawyers Federation Farouk Abu Issa will arrive in Amman from Damascus Sunday, accompanied by two members of the federation's general secretariat to offer condolences to the Hadidi

Mr. Hadidi'a death was announced Saturday in a communique from the Prime Minis-

New rules for drivers

AMMAN (Petra) - The Drivers and Vehicles Licencing Department Saturday issued a statement giving conditions for non-Jordanians residing in the Kingdom and wishing to obtain a driving licence.

Non-Jordanians ean obtain such a licence provided they have a valid residence permit, a foreign driving licence or any accredited certificate from driver training school, a valid work permit, and a good conduct certificate if exempted from the residence permit, said the statement.

Any non-Jordanian investor must register his project with the concerned authorities but no work permit is needed, the statement said. This also applies to the investor's wife, it said.

The same applies to diplomatic mission provided they produce official documents from the Foreign Ministry.

Foreign experts and technicians employed by public organisations in Jordan are also exempted from the work permit condition, the statement said.

Nr Jordanian students at the universities can produce the university identity card when applying for a driving licence.

JNYF to stage rally for Iraqis

AMMAN (J.T.) - A public march and rally will be staged Sunday afternoon by the Jordanian National Youth Federation (JNYF) in a show of solidarity with the Iraqi

people.

The march which will begin from Abdali and end at Hashemieh Square near the old municipality building and the Roman amphitheatfe.

A nation-wide campaign will be announced to collect supplies such as pencils and copybooks for Iraqi ehildren. Meanwhile, organisations in Jordan continued to voice condemnation of the recent U.S.-led attacks on Iraq. The Middle East Council of Churches (MECC) issued a statement recently, denouncing such attacks and appealing to churches in the Middle East to support efforts towards the achievements of peace and justice.

ESCWA open transport meeting

AMMAN (J.T.) — The United Nations Conference on Trade and Development(UNCTAD) and the United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia (ESCWA) opened a two-day meeting in Am-man Saturday on multi-modal transport in Western Asia. Senior officials from

governmental road transport corporations, port authorities and stateowned airlines are participating in the meeting which is being held at the ESCWA office. ESCWA executive Director Tayseer Abdel Jaber told the opening session that the transport sector constituted one of the main pillars of socio-ecocomie development, and plays a key role in the development of other sectors.

Gaza children to receive speech, hearing treatment

Special to the Jordan Times

AMMAN -- In Gaza, 1,000 preschool children have been identified as potentially needing special

speech and hearing services.

According to Manal Hamzah,
audiology consultant for the Society for the Care of the Handicapped in Gaza (SCHG), 4,000 children between the ages of 1 december dren between the ages of 1 day and 6 years are being treated at home under the Portage programme for the development of motor skills and general abilines.

Ms. Hamzah expects that out of the 4,000 children, 300 will need intensive diagnosis, rehabilitation, audiotory and special education services.

She attributes the high number of cases to poor primary health care services received by pregnanl women in Gaza.

With a population of 800,000, birthrate of 4.1, and households of seven or more children, Gaza has been described by Arab-American scholar Edward Said as an affront to humanity." Gaza, which has been under

Israeli occupation since 1967, has more than its share of health Houses are cold and damp,

which can lead to problems of the middle ear and later to hearing disabilities. School classes are overcrowded and provide little or no visual or mental stimulation. "A child does not go to school

UNCTAD,

Gaza's overcrowded schools can lead to speech and hearing impairments (UNRWA photo) until the age of six. So if the child teacher for every ten children; has some handicap, it will be left undetected until the late age of

six," Ms. Hamzah said. Plans for home treatment services have been drawn up in cooperation with the University of Lamar in Texas, and will start in May 1993.

Children will be equipped with hearing aids and other devices, and their parents will be trained in dealing with speech and hear-

he/or/she will visit the children at their bomes on a weekly basis. Meanwhile, about 70 students

from Gaza will benefit from the University of Lamar off-campus master's level training programme in audiology, speech pathology, and deaf education.

Funding for the programme ing impairments. the programme is estimated at \$10 million.

ILO checks needs in occupied territories

AMMAN (Petra) — The Interna-tional Labour Organisation arbitrary measures, the minister (ILO) plans to offer assistance 10 said the magnetic card system workers and husinesses in the occupied Arab territories following a visit there shortly by an ILO team, to determine aid requirements of Palestinians under Israeli rule.

The announcement was made by ILO Assistant Director Mr. Shukri Dajani for Arab Affairs who is leading an ILO fact-finding mission the Middle East.

At a meeting with acting Minister of Labour Saad al Srour in Amman Saturday. Mr. Dajani said the ILO director has requested more aid for Arab workers under Israeli occupation, pending a review of the workers'

The acting minister spoke at length about the pitiful conditions of Arab workers in the occupied

The long curfews imposed on

refugee camps and towns, bans on marketing Arab farmers produce and other measures are causing a great deal of suffering to the local population, the minis-

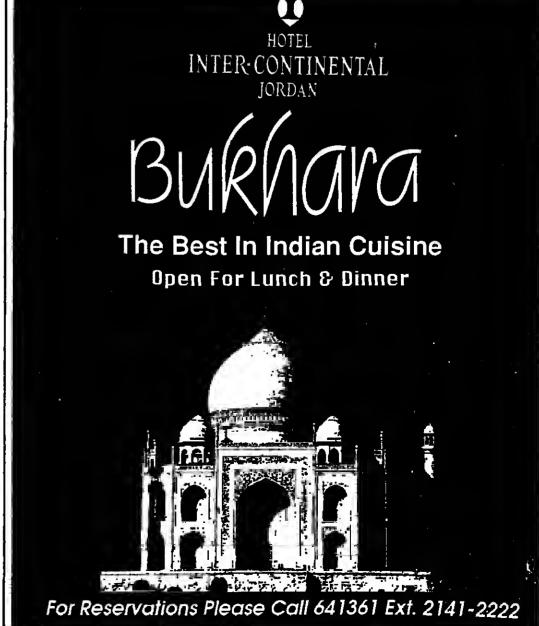
He added that heavy taxes including the departure tax, are increasing the burdens on Arab businesses and workers at a time wheo the occupied territories are witnessing increased ucemploy-

Mr. Srour urged the ILO to work out a timetable for the implementation of its own resolutions passed in 1974 and 1980 and to provide all possible economic and technical assistance to the Palestioian people.

Embassy Of India **Amman** Republic Day of India

On the occasion of the Republic Day of India, a flag hoisting ceremony will be held on Tuesday, January 26, 1993, at 10 a.m. at the premises of the Embassy of India, First Circle, Jabal Amman (Opp. Malhas Hospital).

All Indians with their family members are cordially invited to attend the function.



17 expellees flown to Haifa

(Continued from page 1)

clothes from the Red Cross," Dr. Rantisi said after meeting with the ICRC officials immediately after their arrival.

the immediate implementation of U.N. Security Council Resolution 799," he said. Resolution 799 condemns Israel for expelling the Palesti-

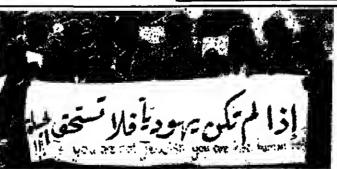
We will remain demanding

nians and demands it take them back immediately. Most countries have condemned the expulsions and Palesti-

evictees come home. Israel says the men were linked groups behind attacks on its sol-

"Although we harbour the highest esteem and respect for to admit the delegation into the camp," said Dr. Rantisi.
"We smell a conspiracy to transform our cause into a buma-

nitarian issue to abort Resolution 799," he added. Dr. Rantisi said the ICRC de-



Palestinian expellees hold a banner reading "If you are not Jewish you are not human being" Friday during a march they staged to a Lebanese army line to present petitions to the world comm pressure Israel into allowing their return to their homes in the occupied West Bank and Gaza Strip (AFP photo)

legation carried letters from the nian resume the talks until the families to the evictees, "which we have received but do not intend to answer. We also refused to two fundamentalist Islamic to accept the medical supplies." Despite the delegates' exclu-

sion from the camp, formalities proceeded smoothly. Dr. Rantisi called the names of the Red Cross, we have refused the sick through a bullhorn, asking them to report to one of the roadside centres to be examined by Red Cross physician Cordula Wolfisberg. The sick men were driven to the site in

news reporters' cars. The mistakenly expelled men walked to the other centre for interviews with the delegates.

When the time came for them to leave, the 17 men hugged their friends and tonk letters back bome for their families.

In their excitement, they shoved each other to get on the helicopters.

"Don't push each other, be

calm," shouted Dr. Rantisi through a bullhorn. The six-hour visit was the first to freezing camp by the international organisation for two

By Dr. Fahed Al Fanek

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Doing it right

THE PALESTINIANS seem poised to foresake the next round of peace talks with Israel on account of Israel's continued defiance of U.N. Security Council Resolution 799 which calls on Israel to reverse its expulsion of more than 400 Palestinians. This is an understandable position in view of the gravity of the situation surrounding the belpless Palestinians stranded in no-man's land for more than five weeks now. Yet abandoning the bilateral peace talks at this stage may not be the answer, neither for the plight of the affected Palestinian individuals nor for the Palestinian conflict itself, Given the fact that Arab and international geopolitical considerations have effectively deprived the Palestinians in particular of any military options to resolve their case, it would seem self-defeating from the Palestinian point of view to withdraw from the only available avenue left to them to retrieve at least some of their national rights. To pin exaggerated hopes only on escalating the intifada as a way to drive Israel out of the occupied Arab territories is wrong. The entire Arab World, it must be remembered, bas opted for a peaceful resolution of the Arab-Israeli conflict including the Palestinian question out of bitter experiences with past military efforts to realise a total Israeli withdrawal from the West Bank, the Gaza Strip and the Golan Heights. So to abandon the peace process now, when there is also near universal support for it, would be self-defeating. It is one thing to press hard for the repatriation of the expelled Palestinians by all available means, but to put on hold the entire peace effort may not achieve the desired results including the return of the Palestinians. It so happens that the Arab side has engaged in the peace process more seriously than Israel has done. To suspend the negotiations at this juncture would therefore play into the hands of the extremists in Israel who would want nothing more than the miscarriage of the peace efforts under international pressure.

This does not of course mean that the issue of the expellees will have to be abandoned or forgotten before the talks are resumed in Washington or anywhere else. It simply means that every effort should be made to solve it right

ARABIC PRESS COMMENTARIES

AL RA'I Arabic daily Saturday drew attention to a request submitted by Israel to the Clinton administration asking that it use its influence to postpone a Security Council debate on the question of the Palestinian evictees until the Israeli Supreme Court has reached a decision on the matter. This development clearly reflects Israel's deep desire to freeze Resolution 799 and prevent the council from forcing it to return the Palestinians to their homeland, said the paper. It is worthy-to note here that Israel must implement the resolution regardless of the decision taken by its own supreme court simply because it was ordered to do so by the world community which regarded the act of deportation as violating international rules, the paper said. The Clinion administration, is therefore called on to ignore this request and is urged to take speedy measures to implement the council resolution because any delay in the matter would encourage the Israelis to continue their atrocities against the Palestinians and violate world rules and regulations, the paper added. It said that Washington is invited to utilise its influence with Tel Aviv to respond lavourably to the Security Council resolution and return the evictees who have suffered a great deal due to Israel's arrogance and inhuman practices. Israel's continued flouting of U.N. resolutions and its mutiny against international rules, said the paper, can only place the new administration face to face with a critical test. The paper said no one expects the Clinton administration to individually force Israel to comply with U.N. resolutions, but at least one expects Washington not to impede the council from taking measures to force the Jewish state to abide by world resolutions.

A COLUMNIST in Al Dustour daily Saturday discussed President Clinton's speech in which he made it clear that Washington was now turning its attention to stem the power of Islamie fundamentalism now that the world has disposed of communism. Saleh Al Oallab said that Mr. Clinton, who is a Democrat, is bound to turn his attentinn to Iran, which conspired to bring about the downfall of former Democrat President Jimmy Carter and to launch aggression on that country. The best ally for the United States in this concern, said the writer, is fsrael which is seeking continued western support for its policies and atrocities against the Arabs and the Palestinians. He said that it was in order to achieve Washington's ends that Israel recently deported 400 Flamas activists to southern Lebanon hoping to win the western nations' backing for its endcavour to perpetuate its occupation of Palestine. But the Rabin government, faced with an unexpected anger from western countries over this matter, is now trying to hack down and reach a compromise over this issue, the writer said. However, he said, the Israelis are still in the game of stemming the so-called danger of Islamic fundamentalism and could launch a raid on Iranian nuclear plants, as it did in Iraq, to please the West and win further U.S. support.

Sunday's Economic Pulse

Higher cash reserve required

Changing the rate of cash reserves which the banks are required to maintain with the central bank is one of the established instruments of monetary policy. In the case of the Central Bank of Jordan (CBJ) this instrument is the most effective and potent tool available to the central bank. Changing the rediscount rate is meaningless when banks are too liquid to need to borrow from the central bank, while open market operations, on the other hand, are almost non-existent in Jordan in the absence of a big and active secondary market of financial instruments.

The central bank is authorised, by law, to dictate the rate of cash reserves, i.e., the portion of deposits that must be set aside with the central bank, without interest, provided this portion does not exceed 35 per cent.

The CBJ lowered the ratio of compulsory cash reserves in the ist years when banks were starving for liquidity. The liquidity of the banks soared now to unprecedented high levels. Banks maintain huge cash balances with the central bank in excess of the compulsory reserves, therefore the central bank found it necessary to raise the ratio from 13 per cent to 15 per cent in order to siphon part of the excess liquidity and as precaution against possible inflationary pressures. At this time, when the Jordanian economy is close to being overheated, the precautions against renewed inflation are justified. Under the circumstances, the

central bank must adopt a tighter monetary policy, which it did. Naturally, the CBJ's action drew some sharp criticism from the banking sector, which the press echoed. This criticism is of course

At the outset, we claim that the private sector and the business. circles will not be negatively affected by the new measure. The remaining liquidity in the banking system, after raising the required cash reserves, is still more than sufficient to accommodate comfortably all the legitimate demand of the business sector at the current interest rate on credit. Investors still find it in their best interest to use their own capital, rather than to borrow from the banking system at 11 per cent per annum, especially if their capital is kept in dollars, either within the country or abroad.

It is worth mentioning here that the compulsory cash reserve ratio on deposits of foreign exchange was 35 per cent for four years. However, the central bank accepted to pay the going interest rate on the reserve in foreign exchange while no interest is payable on the 15 per cent reserve in local currency.

The margin of interest, i.e., the difference of interest, of 5.5 per cent, payable to depositors and the interest chargeable to borrowers of 11 per cent, is relatively wide. It secures high profitability in favour of the banks. The central bank measure will effectively absorb part of this windfall in favour of the treasury, to which the central bank pays its own profits. It remains to be seen whether the banks will be able to shift this indirect tax to the public or if it will be borne by the banks themselves. We are inclined to expect the latter, because interest rates on deposits and loans were independently determined by the market.

A compulsory cash reserve of 15 per cent has the effect of raising the cost of deposits from 5.5 per cent payable to the depositors to 6.5 per cent, because the bank pays interest on the entire deposit while it is unable to invest more than 85 per cent of the funds upder the best circumstances.

During 1992, the central bank imposed a ceiling on the growth of credit of 8.5 per cent. At the time, critiques argued that the ceiling will suppress new investments. With 1992 ended, we find that despite the economic boom, the private sector did not utilise

more than 65 per cent of the allowed quota.

The ceiling of credit for 1993 will be JD400 million. We believe that that ceiling is actually higher than the real needs for credit. The credit ceiling, like the hiking of cash reserve ratio, will not prevent qualified borrowers from obtaining sufficient credit, but they will send a signal to the market that inflation is not to be

Minorities find

Is Gaza worth the anguish?

By David Hoffman

KHAN YOUNIS - Occupied Gaza Strip — Israeli army jeeps with loudspeakers raced through the rutted streets in the occupied Gaza Strip, announcing that the curfew would be lifted for just two hours, but only women could leave their bouses to shop for

Tharwat Abu Tyour, an unemployed car mechanie, sent one of his daughters, Rana, out to get fresh milk from a farmer, he and neighbours said. He gave her I

shekel and a pitcher. The 10-year-old girl walked through an orange grove and up a side street. When she started to cross a boulevard, she was shot and killed by two bullets fired by Israeli soldiers, witnesses recounted. According to a hospital report, the shots ripped through her back.

Rizeq Fara, 19. looked out from his house and saw that the girl had been hit. He shouted to neighbours to get her family, witnesses said, Soon, Rizeq, too, was shot and killed on his balcony by an Israeli soldier, the witnesses said. The hospital report said the bullet hit him in the head.

The deaths came in a maelstrom of anger, fear, and fatal miscalculations that erupted in Khan Younis Saturday, Dec. 19. Four other Palestinians were killed that day and four more died during the next three days in a surge of violence following Israel's mass deportation of 415 suspected Islamic activists to

The story of the Khan Younis deaths runs deeper than just another clash between Palestinians and the Israeli army. A reconstruction of the events, based on Palestinian witnesses and Israeli soldiers, offers a revealing glimpse of how quickly the violence was ignited and resulted in the killings and lasting

The Khan Younis riot also underscores how, after five years of fighting the Palestinian intifada, or uprising, againsi Israeli occupation, the army is still caught in the grips of a painful no-win war. With each death and particularly after the recent fatal ambush of three Israeli soldiers - influential voices in Israel are asking whether the occupa-tion of the Gaza Strip is worth the

For Palestinians, too, December was a cruel month. Of the 23 Palestinians killed in the West Bank and Gaza Strip, eight were under 16 years old. It was the highest monthly death toll in the occupied territories in more than

two years.

After watching year-end programmes on Israeli television,
Pana's father asked. "Why didn't they say, in 1992 there was a massacre in Khan Younis?" He said no nne frnm the army has come to tell him that a mistake had been made. "I was never in jail" and always

kept out of Palestinian politics. he said. "But now, how can I

look at an Israeli after the death of

my girl?" Israeli soldiers, for their part, say they feel defenseless and in a no win situation while on duty in Gaza. Without solving the deeper economie and social problems of Gaza, 40 soldiers warned in a recent letter to Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin, "there is a pro-cess of Lebanonisation — turning to the extreme and loss of con-

Especially in the southernmost towns and refugee camps like Khan Younis and Rafah, Gaza is daily transformed into a war zone, the place where Israeli soldiers most fear to tread. Violent gangs named the Fateh Hawks and Red Eagles rule the streets there, and barefoot boys play with makeshift weapons and toy

Many of the most jolting ter-rorist attacks against Israelis and most severe clashes with soldiers occur in Gaza or originate there. A large number of the suspected activists deported over a month ago came from Gaza, a windswept seaside strip that is home to to 780,000 Palestinians, many of them refugees.

According to military officials, the nature of the conflict in Gaza has changed markedly in the last year. They say that the armed gangs have grown stronger, more experienced, and better equipped. Israeli military commanders now see their role in Gaza not as confronting the mass demonstra-tions of the intifada's early days. but as grinding and dangerous combat against the relatively small number of armed fugitives.

Rana and Fara were not throwing stones or carrying guns, and the soldiers did not shout warn-

M. KAHIL

ings before firing the fatal shots, Palestinian witnesses said.

The army has said nothing publicly, but in an interview, an army officer acknowledged that Rana's death was a mistake. The officer, along with others in the army interviewed for this story, spoke on condition that he not be identified. He said the army lacked solid information about the death of Fara apparently because solliers' recollections after the episode were inconclusive.

Palestinian witnesses said the soldiers in Khan Younis at that period fired large amounts of ammunition, sometimes at random. A soldier who was there described the atmosphere as "simple hysteria," and he said Rana was killed in a burst of more than 50 bullets.

When the Dec. 19 riot broke out, military commanders were surprised by the pent-up fury of the Palestinians at the deportations, army officials said, They were relying on a large deploy-ment of reinforcements who had been sent to Gaza earlier in the month with little experience in the densely populated shanty-towns. All the troops felt under siege from big, angry crowds throwing rocks, iron bars, and bottles — and some of them carrying weapons — the officials

The army was taken aback when hundreds of residents poured into the streets of Khan Younis - including men and children - when the curfew was briefly lifted for the first time in six days. "We saw that all the (refugee) camp and most of the population jumped out and filled up all the streets with all kinds of crowds and kids and boys," the

army officer said. "Most of the population was out and in part of the area there were armed guys who took part. ... All the popula-tion came out with their angry faces, ready to clash with the army. I was there. It was real different from other times."

Israeli army rules say soldiers may shoot if they feel their lives. or those of colleagues, are in immediate danger. Otherwise, they may shoot in the legs to wound a suspect while trying to apprehend hi, but only after ssuing a series of warmings.

Rana was shot from a block away, according to two witnesses from the neighbourhood. They said they could not help her immediately because shooting continued. Eventually, she was taken to the hospital and pronounced dead on arrival.

A soldier who was in Khan Younis said he agreed with an unidentified soldier's description in the daily newspaper Haaretz of the situation as chaotie, and added: "In this specific incident, we shot 50 bullets, and I am only talking about the incident in which the girl was killed."

"I have no idea" how she was killed, he said. "I am going crazy from this, Simply crazy, We shot an enormous amount. L'estimate that it was soldiers' hysteria simple hysteria. I am sure that he did not shoot at the girl. He ly shot, and she got hit. The girl was not standing next to someone armed, or anything like

"No one can shake the feeling that she and others were killed because of us. Don't think that it is easy for us to live with this". The Washington Post.

a voice at 'alternative U.N.' By Ben Hirschler But there is still a long way to

THE HAGUE — The Unrepresented Nations and Peoples Organisation (UNPO), founded here two years ago, remains a minnow on the world stage. But its members believe history is on

their side. This week, Kurds and Tibetans rubbed shoulders with Mohawk Indians, Australian aboriginals. Tatars, African pygmies and ethnic Albanians.

They came together in The-Hague as part of an "alternative United Nations" which gives a voice to more than 100 million people worldwide who have no say in the international body or

any other official forum. There are more than 5,000 distinct nations and peoples in the world, yet the United Nations described by world leaders as "the international community"

 comprises only 180 states.
 The implications of that disparity are slowly dawning in corri-dors of power worldwide as national boundaries frozen by the cold war start to thaw.

Four of UNPO's original mem-— Estonia, Latyja, Georgi and Armenia - have already left the ranks of the oppressed to take their place in the world as fullyfledged sovereign states.

There has been a change in the world climate in terms of the perception of peoples' rights to self-determination." said UNPO General Secretary Michiel van

"It's a central question now in international relations and in the domestic situations of a number of countries," he added. The end of the cold war has

made it easier for national groups to assert themselves, leading to a renaissance of indigenous co-

As a result, the issue of minor ity rights is steadily moving up the international political agenda. This year has been designated U.N. international year for in-digenous peoples. The Conference on Security and Coopera-tion in Europe (CSCE) has appointed a high commissioner

for minorities. Linnart Maell, vice-chairman of the Estonian National Independence Party, believes it is the

start of a sea change.

The post-war world organised by Stalin. Roosevelt and Churchill which gave superiority to great states is now crashing." he

"The world of the 21st century will be based on an absolutely new way of thinking. Great states - and states themselves - will not mean so much. Nations and peoples will be the primary driving forces," he predicted.

The East Timorese and Acheh

The Balts and other peoples on

the fringe of the old Soviet

empire may have found freedom but little has changed for most of the world's minorities. are still fighting Indonesian sovereignty, The Tibetans and people of East Turkestan still struggle under Chinese Rule. Dozens of

little-known tribes seek recogni-, tion in Africa. Asia and South Within the former East Bloc, too, relationships are hardly

harmonious. Russia has simply replaced the ... Soviet Union as oppressor for peoples such as the Tatars, Udmurt, Chuvash and Komi. Clashes between Abkhazia and

Georgia -- both UNPO members as well as the war in former Yugoslavia highlight the dark side of the new nationalism. . For many UNPO members,

whose numbers expanded to 35 with the admission of nine new groups at the start of this week's meeting, violence is never far from the surface.

Mr. Van Walt is all too aware that resurgent nationalism spells bloodshed in the minds of many but he insists that UNPO is a force for peace despite its championship of nationalist groups. Self-defence is condoned bul "terrorism" is not. Mr. Van Walt admits the distinction is difficult to draw since up to 25 per cent of members engage in some form of

armed struggle.
"It is the denial of the right to self-determination which creates violence ... Our efforts are based on providing ways for peoples to governments to engage in ogue." he said.

UNPO tries to achieve peaceful progress by helping underfunded minorities pool resources. organising management and diplomatic training courses, and providing a central point for dis-

seminating information.
It also hosts talks on neutral grounds such as The Hague and Geneva and arranges fact-finding missions by parliamentarians or other UNPO members to particular trouble spots.

In the past year there have been missions to Abkhazia. Tatarstan, Iraqi Kurdistan and Kosovo in former Yugoslavia. This year may see missions to East Turkestan, Tibet. East Timor and the Philippines.

Every case is different, complicated by langled, age-old rival-ries. But the determination of the world's underdogs is stronger than ever.

"We all have our own dreams." said Erkin Alptekin of the East Turkestan Cultural

Isolated Shiites face increased dangers

By Charles Richards

THE SHHTES in southern Iraq, whom Washington says are protected by the allied no-fly zone. are facing a worsening plight on several fronts. Increased repression by President Saddam Hussein's regime, the worsening economic situation, and a rift within the Iraqi National Congress (INC) umhrella organisation of opposition groups, have left the Shiites feeling more and more isolated.

Shiite dissidents based in London say that the allied no-fly zone has successfully reduced the military operations against the Shiites, but the Iraqi authorities have over the past two months begun a purge of dissident elements. They

have made selective arrests of people associated with the uprising in March and April 1991, noticeably in the towns of Najaf, Al Amarah and Basra. And they have set up roadblocks and instituted other searches as the security apparatus consolidates its hold, according to Shiite dissi-

As a result, "it is unlikely that the south will rise up against Saddam Hussein," said Laith Kubba, a leading Shiite intellectual. Others report a carrot and stick approach, with Baghdad offering gifts and bribes to loyal

At the same time, the population is suffering from lack of

food. Those in the marshes - a small minority of the Shiites in the south -- do not even receive the government rations. There is unease among the Shiites that they did not get the kind of aid provided to the Kurds in the north under the Provide Comfort programme. Many feel the outside world in its obsession with military strikes and finding ways to unseat President Saddam does not care for their uprising and the broader humanitarian issues.

On a political level, the feeling of victimisation is one reason why the Shittes, with the exception of Sheikh Bahr Al Oloum, have in effect withdrawn from the Executive Cnuncil of the INC. Their

differences are both personal and substantial. Many in the Iraqi opposition, both outside the Iraqi National Congress, and inside. oppose the prominent role played by Ahmed Chalabi, the chairman of the executive committee. Criticism of Mr. Chalabi is mainly on a personal level, because of his past financial dealings, but it also contains differences in substance. One Sunni nationalist, Abdul Sitar Ed-Duri, resigned from the INC executive committee.

Laith Kubba's concerns are with policy more than personalities. "My deepest worry is the politicisation of the ethnic differences, of insisting on percentages army officers who had defected in

went too far in seeking political federation for the Kurds, not administrative federation." That is, by insisting that the three-man presidency council should have one Kurd (Masoud Barzani), one Shiite (Sayyed Mohammad Bahr Al Oloum), one Sunni (General Hassan Naquib), the INC is rein-

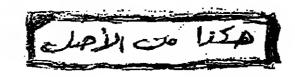
and quotas. Basically the INC

forcing the sectarian differences of Iraqis rather than overcoming them. Not only Shiites claim to be active in promoting dissent in the south. Mr. Sabah Kadhim, a spokesman for General Naquib. said that his group, the indepen-dent Iraqi Alliance, had recruited

According to Mr. Kadhim, the United States is still targeting the south as the place where pressure would be brought to bear on President Saddam.

covert operation, sending people inside, and getting information specifically nn nrmy commanders. Their plan is to destroy military facilities in the south, in order to prevent the army from stopping the uprising." he said. Such an assertion of an uprising in progress is nt odds with the more gloomy assessment by the Shiite groups - The Indepen-

"Washington is working on a



U.N. team reports Iraqi cooperation

(Confinued from page 1)

Clinton to pursue aggressive actions against Iraq.
Babel, published and owned by President Saddam's son, Uday, carried the open letter on page

It was the first time any Iraqi newspaper had directly commented on Mr. Clinton and Iraq's inauguration day ceasefire and offer of talks on the northern and southern and the two-and-a-halfyear-old U.N. trade blockade.

"So far, there has been no response from the American side three days after Iraq's peaceful initiative. Therefore the gunpowder keg remains liable to explode any time," Mr. Aref wrote.

His remarks followed attacks by U.S. planes on Thursdy and Friday ou alleged anti-aircraft missile sites in the "no-fly" zone set up in the north.

"Was the assault a test by Washington to see how far Iraq was committed to its (ceasefire) decision? Undoubtedly, testing actions are not conducted by playing with fire," he wrote.

Mr. Aref said that if Mr. Clinton was seeking "to put his house in order he would not talk and behave like his predecessor (Bush) in the world and use the same terms against others."

Government newspapers have so far refrained from comment on Mr. Clinton's remarks that there would be no change in U.S. policy towards Iraq under his administration, but Mr. Aref

"Clinton is still, until this moment, against Iraq's right of sovereignty over its airspace and land, interprets Security Council resolutions away from reality and insists on keeping prohibited zones in the north and south of the country.'

The army newspaper, Al Qadissiyah, in its own signed commentary, said Mr. Clinton's "contradictory policies" towards Iraq implied "the continuation of the same old path of" U.S. fore-

Within this context Clinton will not escape the curse of the arrogant American presidency," columnist Hussein Al Obeidi

The United States and its Gulf war allies launched missile and air strikes against Iraq Jan. 13, accusing Baghdad of flouting the Security Council's ceasefire re-

The attacks, spread over four days, killed at least 46 people, including two women who died when a cruise missile smashed the lobby of Baghdad's leading hotel,

Iraq insists it is abiding by the U.N. resolutions but says they do not cover the "no-ffy" zones.

After a U.S. F-16 shot down an Iraqi MiG in the south on Dec. 27 it moved surface-to-air missiles into the zone and vowed to fight to win back control of its airs-

Just before Mr. Clinton moved into the White House Wednesday it offered talks to resolve the problem.

After the first attack Thursday, it said it stood by the ceasefire declaration. It described the reasons for Friday's attack as fabricated and made no mention of the ceasefire.

U.S. officials said that in both incidents Iraqi air defence radar locked onto U.S. or allied planes patrolling the northern "no-fly"

Iraq says its air defence batteries have not switched on such radar since its ceasefire came into

force Wednesday. Iraqi military officers said they

"We have received orders not to open fire on any plane. We hope that the Americans can

Others fields tackled in the

committee's report included the

agriculture sector, roads, national

security and public administra-

The committee expressed re-

gret that successive governments'

decisions and plans to promote

the agriculture sector ended in_

failure. The successive govern-

ments gave many promises to develop the sector and funds

were spent on drilling artesian

wells and building dams or con-

structing irrigation canals, but the results fell far short of meeting

the country's aspirations, the re-

Following an open debate on

the report. Finance Minister

Basel Jardaneh addressed the

Senate, clarifying a number of points raised by Senators but

giving conflicting figures about the unemployment in Jordan.
In the minister's view, only

100,000 Jordanians are consi-

dered unemployed in accordance

with the initial results of a general

survey conducted in 1991 by the

The survey, which covered 50,000 families, showed that the

Jordanian work force stood at

876,000 and that the rate of un-

ement stood at 18 per cent

department of statistics.

Senate endorses 1993 draft budget

wanted peace.

initiative," base commander Colonel Abed Ilah Danoun told reporters at the site of Thursday's air strike.

understand and respond to this

Planes too high to identify roared over a wheat field littered with craters and shrapnel from cluster bombs dropped on what Washington said was a missile battery site.

Col. Danoun said the nearest missile battery was 30 kilometres away from the bombed site of Bakheera, 12 kilometres south of Mosul, and their radars had not been activated

The Iraqi officers, asked about Thursday's attack, said they had not locked their radar on any U.S. and allied planes patrolling the northern and southern "nofly" zones since the ceasefire began Wednesday.

The American pilots are our brotbers - we don't think brothers should attack brothers," General Sameer Mohammad Nadhir, a MiG pilot, told repor-

In Baghdad, the Foreign Minis try called the attack-a provocation but made no mention of the

Today's incident is nothing but a fabricated incident aimed at provocation," a statement said. Denying suggestions that Fri-day's attack was triggered by an Iraqi missile battery locked on to a U.S. plane, it said Iraq had no air defence batteries east of

Al Jumhouriyah, in a front-age editorial, blamed remnants of the Bush administration for the latest air strikes.

"There are elements of the mnants of the criminal Bush's administration at the centre of esponsibility in the American Defence Department and the Central Intelligence Agency," it

They are working in an obvious manner to push the new American administration to take gressive steps against Iraq." Under the banner headline beware of Bush's Remnants" Al Jumhourivah said they were hiding facts about Iraq's attitude from Mr. Clinton.

Al Jumhouriyah also said Saturday that fear of Iraq would haunt Kuwait's ruling family ceaselessly until it abdicated or were overthrown after oil runs

The editorial in Al Jumhouriyah echoed a speech by President Saddam Monday in which he derided Kuwati rulers for imposing a "new colonialism" on the emirate.

Under the terms of the 1991 ceasefire, Iraq is required to give up its claim to Knwait. But it has renewed it several times since and has made arms-gathering forays across the border.

Regardless of its attempts to possess the constituent parts of a modern state and to buy off regime will remain smaller than a mosquito and dirtier than dirt itself in the eyes of Iraqis,' the newspaper wrote.

"Fear of the Iraqis will continue to pursue them generation after generation until they throw themselves in the sea to get rid of it, or natil our honourable brothers in our dear-Kuwait stamp them underfoot," the

newspaper said. The editorial was titled "The Kuwaiti Regime and the Fear Complex.

It said that when Kuwait runs out of oil - not expected until the middle of next century, according to current estimates the United States, Britain and France would "turn away from Kowait's rulers, and the Kowaiti regime will then appear as it really is."

Referring to poverty, the minister said that according to the

survey only less than two per cent

a monthly income less than

ID 50, that 11 per cent of the

population's income reaches up

to JD 99 and that 19 per cent

receive up to JD 149 in monthly

of families in urban regions have

American Muslim women educate community about Islam

By Rosalind Mandine Murphy

WASHINGTON - American Muslim women have joined together in a new organisation to help educate the American public about Islam and put an end to the stereotyping of Muslims in the United States.

The organisation, the North American Council for Muslim Women (NACMW), which was founded in February 1992, now has 280 members throughout North America and associate members in other countries. According to its president,

Sharifa Alkhateeb, Muslim women are often misrepresented in the western media. NACMW is "trying to turn that around" by contacting media, providing speakers for conferences and workshops, and establishing itself as a resource of information of Islam and Muslim women, Ms. Alkhateeb said. Ms. Alkhateeb said that even

though NACMW's membership is still growing, its reach is wide because each one of our women is connected to at least four other

Ms. Alkhatech has a master's degree in comparative religions and has worked as a journalist, a

teacher of English as a second Alkhateeb noted. language and as managing editor of a social science journal.

Explaining NACMW's goals. Ms. Alkhateeb said: "We are basically educated women who want to reexamine the way in which women are regarded; the way in which women are understood; and the possibilities that cial," and Ms. Khan discussed are available to women based on people's interpretation of the basie (Islamie) texts."

"We want to develop ideas that based on the Koran and Hadith" and will allow a Muslim woman "to live a serious Muslim life anywhere in the world and still have all of her self-respect, her self-confidence, and her ability to manage her life," Ms. Alkhateeb stressed.

Working to end the stereotyp-

ing of Muslim women is an important way of attaining these goals, she said. Members of NACMW make themselves available for interviews, as speakers, and as resources for information to help set the record straight on Muslim women. Members of NACMW have also met with newspaper editors to "give them information, explain what our

In July. Wanda Khan, publicity chairman for NACMW. orga-

nised a mass demonstration in response to an article published in the Charlotte Observer in North Carolina, entitled "Women of the Veil." NACMW viewed the article as "prejudithese views in a television interview in Charlotte.

An issue of great importance to American Muslim women is the acceptance of women who wish to cover their heads in the workplace, Ms. Alkhateeh said. While most women who cover are accepted, there are still problems, she said.

Those who choose to cover their hair, very often are discriminated against in the workplace," Ms. Alkhateeb said, citing several cases in which Muslim women have been fired from their jobs "because of their covering.

"We are trying to seek accept-ance of us as human beings no matter how we choose to dress," Ms. Alkhateeb said. She noted that NACMW is hoping to meet with Hillary Clinton on this and point of view is and ask them to other issues of concern. "We be more sensitive," Ms. would like to make her aware of

some of the issues affecting Muslim women," Ms. Alkhateeh

Dealing with social service agencies presents another challenge to many immigrant Muslim women, about half of Muslim women are immigrants, Ms. Alkhateeb said. These agencies do not have Muslims or people from Middle Eastern backgrounds on their staffs, and this presents a problem not only in communication but also in establishing trust, she explained.

Through seminars and workshops, NACMW is working to get more people who are of Middle Eastern background or Muslims hired at these agencies and to train social service employees "to be more knowledgeable about people from the Middle East and about Islam," Ms. Alkhateeb pointed out.

In addition, NACMW is producing a series of pamphlets on health-care, sickness and healing, interpersonal relations and "body language." By outlining effective ways to serve Muslim immigrants, the pamphlets are "not only helpful to Muslims, but also to social service agencies," Ms. Alkhateeb said.

NACMW members also work

to educate Americans about Muslim women by getting involved in their communities, attending conferences, and reaching out to

scholars and other organisations. "We very much encourage our members to be involved in their local school systems, on committees, offering their services as volunteers. Just by being involved...will dispel a lot of myths." Ms. Alkhateeb said.

NACMW reaches out to professors who teach courses on women "so that they will be aware of a different way of thinking about Islam and Muslim women and their role." Ms. Alkhateeb said. Noting the growing success of these efforts, she said, "People are beginning to ask us to be involved and ask our opinions about things. Every now and then we will get a call from a university, checking information to see whether or not it is accu-

NACMW members also establish contacts by attending women's and Muslim conferences and events throughout North America. "We give people copies of (NACMW) newsletters, we talk to them about our ideas and our organisation. If we know a major conference is going on we send people there and, if possible, we try to become one of the panelists," Ms. Alkhateeb said.

NACMW members have attended and spoken at many recent conferences, including the Islamic Coordinating Conference, in Indianapolis, Indiana; the first Annual Muslim Women's conference in Richmond. Virginia; Roots Palestinian Youth Organisation Second Annual Convention in Washington. D.C.: the Dialogue on Diversity at Johns Hopkins School of Advanced International Studies; and the New England Muslim Sister Association in Hartford, Connecticut. NACMW held its first conference last March at George Mason University in Virginia and plans a general conference for February to be held in Oakland, California.

Another important element to NACMW's work is "reaching out to men as well and trying to involve them in the process of thinking through with us a new outlook for women." Ms. Alkhateeb said. "If we want to have any kind of successful rethinking of what women can or cannot do — it has to be a joint effort, she stressed - United States Information Agency.

Saucy scoops fail to cure weak circulation

By Michael Leapman

THE PRESS is supposed to be a mirror of society, so it is appropriate that the national newspapers should, like nearly everyone else, have had a rotten year and be looking forward to a worse one. Even the voluminous chronicling of disasters in other quarters - the royal family, the overnment, the Balkans - has failed to halt the long-term decline in newspaper sales.

The unrestrained tabloid coverage of the first two of those subjects has made it almost certain that there will be powerful pressure this year for legislation to curb perceived excesses. And the recession has meant an everdeeper slump in advertising re-

The most recent figures from the Audit Bureau of Circulations, covering the six months to Nov. 30, tell a depressing tale, particularly for the mass-circulation tab-loids: Between them, the Sun, Star and Daily Mirror (with the Glasgow Daily Record), were down by 274,661 copies a day, compared with the same period a year earlier — a drop of 3.4 per

On Sundays, the mass-market picture is even bleaker. The News of the World, Sunday Mirror and People dropped by 430,657 cent fall.

When critics accuse the press of dabbling in sensationalism to increase sales, they might reflect that this aim, whether defensible or not, is not always realised. A particularly saucy scoop, such as the Daily Mirror's discovery of taped conversations between the Prince of Wales and Camilla Parker-Bowles, may result in increased sales for a day or two, but unless the higher circulation is sustained - and it seldom is - i. does not translate into extra

The papers facing the greatest and most painful changes are those of the Mirror Group, still in the hands of the official receiver after Robert Maxwell's death more than a year ago. Since David Montgomery, former editor of the News of the World and Today, was appointed chief executive, there have been many changes, including the loss of scores of casual jobs:

advertising revenue.

Two of the group's three papers already have new editors. Richard Stott was never likely to stay long at the Daily Mirror after trying to lead his own management buyout. It is too early to tell whether bis successor, David Banks, will be able to grab Sun readers by an apparent strategy of moving the paper marginally

the People can be put down to its year-on-year circulation fall of 7.2 per cent, the worst performance of any national paper except the desperate Sunday Sport. It was, though, surprising that be should - succeeded by Bridget Rowe, whose tenure at the Sunday Mirror was marked by a year-on-year fall of 4.3 per cent.

In contrast, the middle-market tabloids have had a good year. There have been strong performances from the Daily Mail, up 3.2 per cent, and, in particular, Today, up 15.4 per cent, although still by far the weakest tabloid with a circulation of 539,284.

The Mail on Sunday also did well, but not as well as its chief rival. The Sunday Express, which switched in July from broadsheet to tabloid under its new editor, Eve Pollard, has cut the Mail on Sunday's lead to 218,845. The Mail on Sunday enjoyed an ex-ceptionally strong November, however, increasing its weekly circulation by 73,962 in a month when the Sunday Express's circulation fell by 25,261.

The year has been mixed for the broadsheet papers: They have done well on Sundays but poorly during the week. The total market for quality dailies has contracted by 29,329 year on year, or Bill Hagerty's departure from graph and the Times fared worse, not remain with the paper.

down 2 per cent and 1.8 per cent respectively, although the Telegraph remains a long way ahead of its three rivals, with sales of 1.038,792. The Guardian's introduction of

a tabloid second section every day, and a revamped Weekend section on Saturdays, has been well received, defending the paper's circulation from the erosion affecting all its rivals except the Financial Times. At the Indepenlaunch in 1986 is at an advanced

The Times's circulation has not responded to changes made by its new editor, Peter Stothard. A plan to relaunch the Saturday Review on glossier paper with a content less like a Sunday supplement and more like the Independent's Saturday magazine has been postponed. On Sundays the broadsheet

picture is rosier, with a net increase of 57,080 copies. The only one of the four competing titles not to share in this gain is the Observer, down 42 per cent despite an expensive relaunch of its colour magazine. Nude pictures of Madonna, published in the second week of the relaunch, won

Best performer of the Sunday quality quartet was the Independent on Sunday, up 7.7 per cent, although still with the lowest circulation of the four at 404,534. The Sunday Times, at I,195,227, remains dominant, with a 3.9 per cent gain partly attributable to its isation of Andrew Morton's book on the Princess of Wales. The explanation for the slow

drift of readers away from the dent, work on the daily paper's mass-market tabloids could be first significant redesign since its their increasing stridence and intrusiveness in reporting scandals involving politicians and the royal family. With their circulation base dwindling, the papers vic to provide ever-more-bysterical revelations. This appears to alienate more readers, making the market still more competitive. At the end of its second year,

the Press Complaints Commis sion has given a confident account of itself to Sir David Calcutt, who will deliver to the government his second set of recommendations on preventing press intrusion into privacy. The commission's self-satisfied view was not endorsed by most of those giving evidence in the past few weeks to the Commons committee looking at the Labour MP Responsibility Bill.

4 RENT & SALE

Many villas and apart-

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are available for sale.

or unfurnished.

Senior press executives believe Sir David will recommend legislation to ban the use of secret recording devices and long-lens cameras on private property - as he has suggested before - and perhaps the establishment of a press authority with statutory powers. The government ignored his earlier recommendation, but recent lobby leaks suggest they might feel obliged to act this time, especially as the Conservative papers have become less loyal allies since the general elec-

Such restrictions — although loudly opposed by editors on principle — would be unlikely to affect the papers' commercial future as much as changes in the economy would. An end to the recession would increase advertising revenue and help pay for promotion to increase circula-

So when the papers aim editorial darts at the chancellor of the exchequer they are driven by that most potent of motivators — self-interest. Until the green shoots of recovery burst into flower there will be no return to the expansive mood of the late eighties and no return to prosperin the print - The

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Mr. Jardaneh said that 19 per cent of the people receive up to JD 99 a month in the rural regions and that 28 per cent receive up to JD 149. The minister said that these figures do not reflect the esti-

mates included in the committee's report which stated that between 40 and 50 per cent of the population live under or around the poverty line. However, he noted, the gov-

ernment was exerting tremendous efforts to deal with pockets of poverty. The National Aid Fund's capital for this year has risen to JD 13 million to the distributed to the needy families. which also receive subsidised

basic foodstuffs, he said. Referring to the volume of investments, the ministers noted that in 1992 investments reached 27 per cent in terms of gross domestic product, up from 22 per in 1991, rising by three per cent in cent in 1991.





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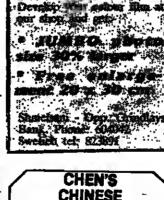
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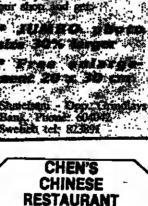
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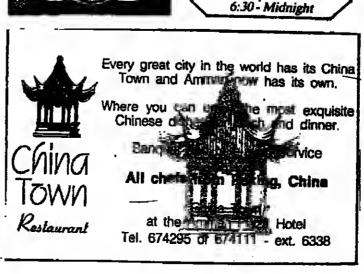






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IAAF:Boycotting athletes Maleeva sisters make Grand Slam history; -face Olympics ban

tional Athletics Federation offer. announced Saturday that any athlete boycotting major track -and field events would be barred '- from the Olympics and Grand Prix finals.

Istvan Gyulai, secretary general of the International Amateur Athletic Federation (IAAF), said the new rules were framed to counter a threat from leading athletes to boycott the Stuttgart World Outdoor Championships unless the top finishers were awarded prize mone

"If the selected athlete without a valid reason refuses to compete in a designated competition, then at the international level they should not be invited to the next Grand Prix final in which they have events and shall not be eligible for the next Olympic Games." Gvulai told reporters after a council meeting.

Gyulai said the new rules gave member federation a say in where their athletes would compete, a right they did not have previously when they gave an authorisation to an agent.

He said member federations could still authorise agents to be representatives of the athletes. but the contracts would now be restricted to a maximum one-year

The new contracts would insist on agents ensuring their athletes' participation in competition listed by the IAAF — regional championships, the World Outdoor Championships, the Athletics World Cup and the Olympic

Agents for several top athletes have threatened to withdraw their clients from the Stuttgart Championships in August and the World Indoor Championships at

LONDON (AP) - English rugby officials are hoping for a

reunion with a former Oxford player who went on to bigger things in the United States — President Clintoo. Chris McCooey, who

introduced Clinton to the sport almost 25 years ago, told the Daily

Mail newspaper that he would issue an invitation to the president.

"I shall tell him (Clinton) that we have a good veterans' side and that if he's up to it, he could probably fied a place on it," he was

quoted as saying. McCooey remembers Clinton as "fairly unfit and not at all athletic, too lumpy for that."

Sammer to leave inter for Borussia Dortmund

ROME (R) - Germany midfielder Mathias Sammer is returning

to soccer at home with Borussia Dortmund after less than half a

season at Internazionale. "The two clubs have reached an agreement for the transfer of the player," Inter spokesman

Thomas Villa said Friday. "All that remains is for Sammer and Borussia to settle the details of his contract. But we can now say

he is a Borussia player." Sammer, a regular member of Germany's squad, joined the Italian club from Bundesliga

MONTE CARLO (R) — World champion Carlos Sainz admitted to being "a bit worried" about his chances in the Monte Carlo Rally when he arrived in the principality after the untimed liaison drive. Sainz, who took the world title last year with Toyota, will be driving a Lancia for the first time in the opening round of the

world Championship which started early Saturday. Last year's

winner Didier Auriol will also be driving a new car. "I'm confident and I'll be looking for another victory," said the

Frenchman. who joined Toyota after finishing third in the championship with Lancia last season. The 3,091-km rally, held entirely on tarmac, will include 22 timed stages totalling 593 kms.

CHICAGO (R) - Alonzo Mourning scored 12 of his 19 points in a third quarter that turned a game and a lot of history around as

the Charlotte Hornets broke a 17-game losing streak against the

Chicago Bulls 105-97. Dell Curry also scored 19 for Charlotte, which snapped a four-game losing skid and won for the first time in nine visits to Chicago stadium. The Hornets had not beaten the Bulls since the first-ever meeting between the two teams in 1988.

Michael Jordan scored 28 and Scottie Pippen had 21 points and 11 rebounds for the National Basketball Association defending champions, who have split their last six-home games. At Golden State. Ricky Pierce had a season-high 33 points and Gary Payton scored 23 as the Seattle Supersonics survived double overtime to beat the Warriors 118-114. The Sonics won for the 10th time in 12

games. Sarunas Marciulionis scored 25 points and Tim Hardaway

chipped in 24 for the Warriors, who lost for the sixth time in seven

Hornets upset Bulls, Sonics overcome

Warriors

Pass

What do you bid now?

Pass

What do you bid now?

What do you bid now?

Q.2—Neither vulnerable, as South

you hold: ♦AQ94 J76 At05 ♦K82

Q.3-Both vulnerable, as South

you hold: ♦3 ~AQ10872 ~AKJ ♠KJ9

The bidding has proceeded:
South West North East
t Pass 1 + Pass

Pass 1 4 Pass Pass ?

The bidding has proceeded. North East South West

champions VFB Stuttgart just over six months ago.

Sainz worried about driving new car

Graf, Edberg advance in Australian Open JAKARTA (R) - The Interna- Toronto if prize money is not on

> Joe Douglas, head of the powerful Santa Monica Track Club, said earlier this week IAAF president Primo Nebiolo's failure to take seriously a threatened boycott could prove a costly mis-

> On Friday the IAAF council rejected the demands for direct prize money at Stuttgart. But it agreed to hand \$7.5

million to national federations to offer the athletes. Federation will receive \$1,000

per athlete they send to the championships, on top of their travel nd accommodation costs. Meanwhile, the LAAF set Butch

Reynolds a one-month deadline Saturday to stop all legal action conduct against them over a failed drug test. Reynolds, the 400 metres

world record holder, was awarded \$27.3 million damages against the IAAF last year by an Ohio court after being suspended in 1990 for failing the test. "The IAAF council asks Mr. Reynolds to retract his libellous statements and to suspend all legal action against the IAAF. This will be officially sent to him. If in one month from now this is not done, the council will consider how to proceed," 1AAF Secretary General Gyulai said.

He gave no indication of what further action the IAAF might take if Reynolds did not heed the deadline. Reynold's suspension ended December 31 and he is

faulting in last year's quarter-finals with a broken toe. "I don't want even to think now free to run again. about giving up, right now 1 would be ready to play even if Γm He has continued to protest his innocence, but the lAAF said a bit injured," she said. they did not recognise the juris-

Her younger sisters breezed through their matches — 14thdiction of the Ohio courts in the seed Katerina, 23, beat Germany's 28th-ranked Barbara Rittner 6-1 while 15th-seed Mag-SPORTS NEWS IN BRIEF dalena, 17, beat another German, Meike Babel, 6-3 6-2. Clinton invited to a scrum

The youngest sister will have toughest match in the next round, facing world number two Steffi Graf who won through to the last 16 when fellow German Claudia Porwik retired jojured after losing the first set 6-1.

MELBOURNE (Ageocies) —

The Maleeva sisters made tenois

history Saturday when all three

won through to the last 16 to the

Australian Open tennis cham-

pionships, the first siblings to do

it was a hectic day for proud

coach and mother Yulia

Berberian-Maleeva as she scam-

pered from court to court follow-

ing the progress of daughters,

Manuela, Katerina and teenager

The Younger two won easily in

straight sets but the eldest, Mann-

ela, 25, had to battle a pulled

muscle in her right thigh for a

plucky three sets win over Amer-

ican Ginger Helgeson.

The injury to ninth seed Manu-

ela took some of the gloss off a

remarkable achievement for the

Maleeva family, particularly

Yulia who was nine tirres nation-

al champion of her native Bulgar-

told reporters.

history," she added.

"It is very moving for me," she

"We are hopeful Manuela will

be fit for ber next match other-

wise it will be not such good

Manuela, who now plays for

Switzerland after marrying tennis

coach Francois Fragniere, had to

have her leg strapped twice dur-

ing her two honr 18-minute

Maleeva Fragniere seems to

ber jinxed at the Open, suffering

a broken finger in 1991 and de-

so in a Grand Slam event.

Katerina plays seventh-seeded teenager Jennifer Capriati. Meanwhile Steffi Graf won more easily than she wanted, but Stefan Edberg had things tougher

than he should have at the Aostralian Open Saturday. Two-time champion Edberg had won all six of his previous meetings with Amos Mansdorf but struggled for two and a half hours before advancing to the fourth round with a 6-3, 6-1, 1-6,

7-6 (7-5) triumph. Edberg was cheered on by dozens of singing, cheering Swedish fans, whose raucous be-haviour appeared to upset Mansdorf. After the last point, he stared hard in their direction.

him," said a disappointed Man-sdorf before heading straight to the airport. "I played very well in the fourth set. It's good to be out

there a long time. I need to play

matches," said Edberg. Frenchman Arnaud Boetsch, Swede Christian Bergstrom and New Zealander Brett Steven, all career at Pepperdine, which has unseeded, joined Edberg, seeded one of the best college tennis

Jones stunned to be in last 16 "I felt I had more chances than

That's Kelly Jones in the last 16 at the Australian Open Kelly Jones' circuitous sojoura from

obscurity in Singles to the fourth round at the first Grand Slam of the year began in 1987, the year after he ended his all-American

The Maleeva sisters Katerina (left) and Magdalena second, in the round of 16.

Wheaton had knocked off No. 6

Jones didn't know he was going

qualifying rounds just to get into the draw, Jones' three victories

this week equal his total Grand

Slam singles wins in 11 previous

tournaments in six years as a

professional and the number of

singles matches he played in

He won his first Grand Slam

singles match at the 1987 Austra-

lian, then on grass, and it would

be three years before he won another. That also happened at

the Australian, hut on hard courts at the new National Tennis

In his six years as a profession-

al, Jones won only one other

singles match in a Grand Slam

event --- the first round of Wimb-

Jones as a singles player any-more. He hadn't even played

Grand Slam singles since losing

two years ago, and winning only

one game against Todd Wistsken.

So when he suddenly rose up

and beat Wheaton, No. 47 in the

world, Jones was surprised as

"This is something completely different," Jones said, unable to

explain how he's gotten this far.

"Your guess is as good as mine. 1

had a good attitude about coming

here, had a nice long break, and I

really wanted to play some more

the first round of the Australia

No one thought much about

ledon in 1990.

at the draw Thursday night.

Jones said he would celebrate

Michael Chang.

programmes in the United States.
"I just laugh that I'm here, because it's been a long time Boetsch next plays Edberg.
Also advancing were No. 10 since I won any singles match in any draw, the 447th-ranked Jones said Friday after upsetting seed Wayne Ferrira of South Africa and resurgent Australian Richard Fromberg. David Wheaton, 0-6, 6-3, 6-4, 6-2. Only two days earlier,

Three-time women's champion Graf made it to the final 16 when her opponent Claudia Porwik was forced to withdraw with an ankle

Graf won the first set 6-1 in 18 minutes.

Porwik then twisted her right ankle in the first game of the second set of the all-German match and was given treatment at courtside. She played three more points but then retired in obvious

"The first thing you worry about is how bad it is for her," Graf said. "To win this way is not so

Graf's loss to Lori McNeil in the first round of the 1992 Virginia Slims Championship was her first before the quarterfinals in tonrnament since 1985. She missed last year's Austra-

lian Open with Rubella. Graf said she planned to practice with male players in a bid to make up for the matchplay she

missed but said she was happy

with her form. Porwik said she had injured the same ankle twice previously.

Arantxa Sanchez Vicario, the No. 4 seed from Spain, had a

trouble-free third-round match. The determined baseliner continned with her more aggressive approach and ousted spirited Radka Zrobakova of Slovakia 6-1, 6-3 for ber third successive

straight-sets triumph. She oext plays No. 11 seed Anke Huber of Germany, who heat loes Gorrochategui of

Argentina 6-2, 7-5.
American Jennifer Capriati, 16, the No. 7 seed, hroke through in the 11th game of each set to at Natalia Zvereva of Belarus 7-5, 7-5 and showed no effects of the virus that left her bed-ridden three days earlier.

Fernandez, seeded fifth, was given a first-set jolt before beating Naoko Sawamatsu of Japan

Swedish fans add colour at Open

singles this year."

They descend on Melbourne every January. Garish figures with painted faces shonting incomprehensible slogans.

The Swedish fans, hundreds of them, are one of the trademarks of the Australian Open tennis

championships.

It's freezing at home and the soccer season is in recess, so the young Swedes opt to mix a holi-

sun with the chance to cheer on their compatriots.

With faces painted in their blue-and-yellow national colours, the Swedish hordes carouse and sing loud songs in their native

Many wear viking horn hats. Others go around without shirts and swill cheap wine from plastic bladders.

"At home in Sweden now it's so terrible," said Thomas Svensson, a student from Gothenburg. 'Of course I had heard about the Australian tennis because

many Swedish players come here

and we can see it on TV. The Swedes occupy the same rows in the upper sections of the Centre Court for each match featuring one of their country-

"Alla vi som alskar clappar nn (all who love Sweden clap your hands)," they chant endlessly beween games.

They are loud and they enjoy with "just a few giggles" and not even think about his next match themselves, but they don't upset anyone and actually add to the atmosphere of the Open.

against No. 12 Guy Forget. Heck, "It is true that many of us know to play Wheaton until he peeked not much about tennis, but we like the sunshine and we like the It's understandable that Jones games and it is good to support would not want to look ahead too our players," Svensson told Australian Associated Press. Having played through the

Tournament loses best personality

If Andrei Medvedev was disappointed with his loss to No. 7 Petr Korda at the Australian Open Friday, the journalists were virtually inconsolable.

They'd jut lost their best source of quotes in a torunament largely bereft of personalities with the absence of such characters as Andre Agassi, John McEnroe and Goran Ivanisevic. The 18-year-old Medvedev.

one of tennis' rising stars after jumping from 226th to 24th in the lastyear, has woo legions of fans bere with his blistering ground-strokes and wry wit. His banter is even more remarkable considering that English is his fourth

Instead of formula responses like, "I think I played well but I can do better," or "my opponent played great and 1 was a little off," the Ukrainian gives some thought to the questions he fields at the post-match news confer-

This is the guy who denied the media guide's claim that Nick Faldo was his favourite sportsman, saying he'd never even heard of the golfer. Pro basketlist. And his favourite tennis player? Michael Jordan, too.

After falling to Korda 6-4, 4-6, 6-3, 7-6 (7-5) io the third round, one reporter tried to ease into things by suggesting the error-plagued match and featured some

good tennis. Medvedev, wearing a Chicago Bulls cap, was having none of it, looking at the man as if he must have been watching some other court. After all, the two players combined for 17 service breaks, and neither looked as though he could find a way to win, committing numerous errors.

HOROSCOPE -

Take a good look at your res

and make plans to gain such in the

TAURUS: (April 20 to May 20)

you are getting out of the duties you are performing and you find

MOON CHILDREN: (Jane 22 to

July 2t) Romantic interests can now be arranged so they are more

satisfactory in the days eventhough

it will take some planning with

LEO: (July 22 to August 21) Con-

fidential discussions with members of your household can now be the

best method by which you have a

closer and more harmonious rela-

VIRGO: (August 22 to September 22) Going off on a jaunt or an

tionship at home.

FORECAST FOR SUNDAY JANUARY 24, 1993

By Thomas S. Pierson, Astrologer, Carroll Righter Foundation GENERAL TENDENCIES: Re-

information collecting trip with good friend could be especially laxation is definitely the order of effective to both of you today or the day today with the moon void of course. In short, that reads "do LIBRA: (September 23 to October only that which you must". Painting, mediating, reading or catching

22) One who is able to help you with your assets is looking ask-ance at the manner in which you up on your piano lessons is the handle them so seek and take this ARTES: (March 21 to April 19) experts suggestions. SCORPIO: (October 23 to November 21) All kinds of improved and decide what is most needed in that vital realm of your existence

outlets are awaiting your accept-ance if you will look into and study the new opportunities which are at your fingertips.

Delve into all sorts of statements and reports of value to you and to SAGITTARIUS: (November 22 to your usual business and personal contacts and get them efficiently December 21) Private conversations with a business person are now essential if you are to have a smooth arundane plan under which GEMINI: (May 2t to June 21) to operate in the days ahead. Take a good look at how many benefits of a practical nature that CAPRICORN: (December 22 to

January 20) When you and a partner carmot reach an agreement or need some more facts, figures seek out a purposeful, good friend and AOUARIUS: (January 2t to Februwirts.

で (A) (

7 75

7 7

** 17

F. E.

ary 19) Although you may not be aware of it an influential person is quietly observing how you are performing duties or promises made and will later be helpful. PISCES: (February 20 to March

20) Many sensible thoughts are running through your mind on how to make your life more as meets your idealistic concepts and do something about it now.



"Stanley, you need to be more careful with your diet. You're leaving a trail of cholesterol!"

JUMBLE THAT SCRAMBLED WORD GAME by Henri Arnold. Unacramble these four Jumbles one letter to each square, to form **GYNAM GATEA** MILDIP THE WORST THING ABOUT GOING TO THE DENTIST. **GRYPIN** Now arrange the circled letters to form the surprise answer, as aug-gested by the above cartoon. Print answer here: THE Jumbles: PIANO DAUNT ITALIC GARBLE Answer: One word which describes the color of her dinner gown—"INGRATIATE" (in gray she ata)

Peanuts







Andy Capp

WEEKLY BRIDGE QUIZ

GOREN BRIDGE

Q.4 -Neither vulnerable, as South Q.1—Both vulnerable, as South AKOJ86 : 10853 +J6 The bidding has proceeded:
North East South West
1 + Pass 2 7 Pass
2 + Pass ? 4762 √8 ∴KQ10952 4854

North East South West What action do you take? Q.5-As South, vulnerable, you ±6 7AK108 ∜KJ107 ◆A1087 The bidding has proceeded:
South West Nurth East
1 1 4 Pass 2 4

What action do you take?

Q.6-Neither vulnerable, as South 7987 ♦AKJ63 4QJ72 The bidding has proceeded: South West North East 1 1 7 1 4 2 7

What action do you take?

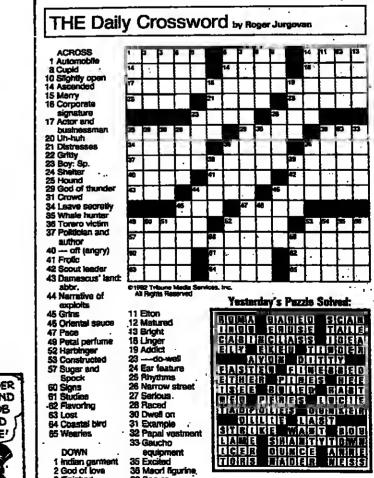






Mutt'n'Jeff





4 Tennis great 5 Recent: pref. 6 Once more

7 Danny's girl and Nobel novelist 8 Auto man

44 Angry 45 Forward

55 Medicinal 56 Looks over 58 Poem

CIS countries agree to set up inter-state bank

MINSK, Belarus (R) - The Commonwealth of Independent States (CIS) has agreed to set up an inter-state bank to facilitate trade and help clear payments between member states, the head of the CIS press centre said Friday. Yegveny Gorelik said Russia, which would contribute more capital than other states, would have 50 per cent of the shares of the new bank. But a two-thirds majority would be needed to push through any decisions. He did not say how many CIS gountries would join the bank. Economic ties between members of the CIS, which groups 10 of the 15 former Soviet republics, bave virtually collapsed since the Soviet Union fell apart in 1991. ies complain that payments between states take weeks or even months.

Financial

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Сигленсу	New York Close Dute 21/1/93	New York Close Dute 22/1/93
Sterling Pound	1.5225	1.5312
Deutsche Mark	1.6141	1.5900
Swies Franc	1.4798	1-4585
French Franc	5.4545	5.3785
Japanese Yen	124.93	125.11
European Curreny Unit	1.2242 **	1.2320

Inrocurrency Interest Entes		Date: 23/1/93		
Currency	t MTH	3 MTRS	6 MTHS	12 MTHS
U.S. Dollar	3.00	3.15	3.31	3.62
Sterling Pound	7.06	6.75	6.50	6.31
Deutsche Mark	8.43	8.25	7.87	7.31
Swies Franc	5.43	5.50	5.43	5.25
French Franc	11.56	11.25	10.12	9.18
Japanese Yen	3.71	3.62	3.43	3.37
European Currency Unit	9.50	9.63	9.25	8.62

recient !	Matala			Date: 23/	11/93
Metal	USD/Oz	JD/Gm²	Metal	USD/O2	JD/Gm
Gold	328.75	6.45	Säver	3.71	. 080

Chreacy	Bid	Offer
U.S. Dollar	0.686	0.688
Sterling Pound	1.0490	1.0542
Deutsche Mark 'nor'	0.4301	0.4331
Swiss Franc	0.4699	0.4777
French Franc	0.1274	0.1280
Japanese Yen ^u	0.5480	0.5507
Dutch Guilder	0.3832	0.3851
Swedish Kronn	0.0961	0.0966
Itolian Lira*	0.0469	0.0471
Beiginn Franc	0.02094	0.02104

Per 100 Other Currencles	De	, rom: 23/1/9:
Ситевсу	Bi4	Offer
Bahraini Dinar	1.7970	1.8180
Lebanese Lira*	0.0350	0.0400
Seudi Riyal	0.1833	0.1845
Kewaiti Dinar	2.2350	2.2900
Qatari Riyal	0.1866	0.1880
Egyptism Possed	. r.2000	0.7150
Omani Riyal	1.7560	1.7750
UAE Dirham	0.1866	0.1880
Greek Dractuma*	0.3150	0.3230
Cyprict Pound	1.4200	1.4450

Daily at 8:30 p.m.

Tickets office open all day

Index	12/1/93 Close	19/1/93 Close
All-Sture	182.04	188.71
Bunking Sector	130.71	136.57
Insurance Sector	198.40	205.87
Industry Sector	251.26	259.72
Services Sector	249.46	252.25

CONCORD

Kevin Costner and Whitney Houston

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U.S. exports 188 billion cigarettes

WASHINGTON (AP) — The United States exported a record 188 billion cigarettes worth nearly \$4 billion in fiscal 1992, a tobacco

mdustry group says.

The industry's overall exports, including leaf and manufactured tobacco products, totaled more than \$5.7 billion, according to the Tobacco Merchants Association of the U.S. Inc. Cigarettes accounted for \$3.9

billion of that total. A relative trickle of tobacco imports into the United States meant the industry saw a \$4.2 billion trade surplus — nearly a quarter of the nation's overall agricultural trade surplus of \$18 billion in fiscal 1992, the Princeton, N.J. association said. Tobacco products were the

third-leading contributor to the nation's agricultural trade surplus, behind the grains and feed category and oilseeds.

Although cigarette shipments to other countries grew from an all-time high of 184 billion in fiscal 1991 to 188 billion in 1992, the industry's surplus slipped by

nearly \$1 billion from fiscal 1991 due to an increasingly competi-tive world market for tobacco products, said Farrell Delman, president of the association. Cigarette exports have nearly tri-pled since 1986.

LONDON (R) - The newly-

appointed governor of the Bank of England, Britain's central

bank, said Friday that tackling

inflation was his top priority. Eddie George, currently the

bank's deputy governor, said he

saw his main task as helping the

government to keep prices down

and create a steady recovery from

"The foremost issue is stability,

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not for its own sake, but because

economic recession.

Iraqi dinar seen falling sharply if overtures to Clinton fail

BAGHDAD (R) — The Iraqi August 1990, the Iraqi dinar was dinar has bad a volatile week, worth \$3.10. That is still the almost as volatile as the ups and downs in the confrontation be-

tween Baghdad and the West. Dragged down by Western air raids and missile attacks, it rose on the change in the White House. and then settled back to a rate midway between the week's high

Traders in the streets of Baghdad said the dinar would probably fall again sharply if the Iraqi government's overtures to the new U.S. administration come to

It was trading at 35 to the U.S. dollar on Baghdad's thriving black market Friday — down from a peak of 40 Sunday, when more than 40 cruise missiles destroyed a high-tech machine-tool factory on the southern outskirts of the capital.

On Wednesday, the day lraq put into effect a unilateral ceasefire with Western warplanes and former U.S. president George Bush left the White House, it traded at 30 to the dollar.

"Our ofinar is weak, volatile, prone to rumours," one trader said. "We shon business because we are uncertain what path it will

Before Iraq invaded Kuwait in

it's been instability and inflation

that have done the damage.

that's the number one agenda. 1

think that's the order of the day,"

Chain-smoking George, 54, built a reputation as a respected

back-room operator in a 30-year

career at the bank, weathering

some of the greatest crises in its

London bankers have niek-

named him "hard" Eddie and

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Patrick Swayze and Demi Moor

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GHOST

Happy New Year

history of almost 300 years.

he told a news conference.

monetary stability and fighting inflation

worth \$3.10. That is still the official rate but in effect it applies

only to government transactions. Some traders say experience has taught them it is sometimes better to keep their dollars than

trade in them. "But you never know. No one expected Iraq to declare a unllateral ceasefire," said one.

"People listen to the news and they now realise it is perhaps the second Bush in the White House as far as Iraq is concerned," one trader added.

President Bill Clinton says he will aphold the hard line taken by the Bush administration in its dealings with Iraq.
Baghdad traders interviewed

by Renters saw no sign that Mr. Clinton would help them resume business by easing the embargo imposed by the United Nations to punish Iraq for the invasion. The embargo has prevented

Iraq exporting all but a trickle of oil, starving the government of foreign currency. Squeezed by a government ban

on luxury imports and intimidated by the execution of 42 traders on charges of profiteering and illegal boarding, many businessman have moved out of foreign trade and into safer but less profitable lines such as cars, economy," he said.

"steady" Eddie for his deter-

mined monetarism and steely

label, saying: "I take it as a

compli ...nt."

Mr. George was favourite for the top job, having helped to

rebuilt the bank's credibility after

the BCCI banking scandal in 1991

and having survived the crisis

which forced sterling out of the

Enropean currency grid last

He takes over in July from

Robin Leigh-Pemberton, a court-

ly outsider appointed in 1983 by

the prime minister Margaret

Thatcher. His deputy will be in-

tellectual · Rupert Pennant-Rea.

45, editor of the Economist

magazine.
Mr. George said Mr. Pennantrea would bring "fresh air" to the
bank. The Economist has prom-

oted the idea that the Bank of

England should break free of its

traditional control by the govern-

ment and become an independent

MELBOURNE (R) - Australia,

the world's fourth largest wheat producer, said Friday it plans to retain wheat trading links with Iraq despite renewed Gulf hostili-

ties and an unpaid debt of 600

million Australian dollars (\$396

The Australian Wheat Board

(AWB), the country's sole agent

for wheat exports, said that

although Iraq was its biggest de-btor, it accepted Iraq's promise to

meet its obligations and would

resume wheat sales when Iraq

could afford to pay.

"We would anticipate holding them as a customer." AWB managing director John Lawrenson said in an interview.

He said AWB officials had vi-

sited Iraq since the Gulf war

ended in early 1991 and he aimed

Australia, whose annual wheat

exports of more than one billion Australian dollars (\$660 million)

are exceeded only by the United

to maintain those contacts.

Australia keen to

maintain wheat

trade with Iraq

September.

central bank.

manner. He prefers the "steady'

real estate and buying and selling stocks.

"We have millions and millions of dinars. They lose value almost every day. We have to do something," one trader said.

Some are busy buying dollars and other hard currencies in the hope of resuming trade in highly lucrative imports.

"The government cannot continue with its ban on foreign commodities for long. It will re-lent sooner or later," said a trad-er who specialised in electrical appliances until the government banned the trade.

Diplomats say Iraq's economy, with rampant inflation and all sorts of distortions and shortages. in a parlous state.

The black market is becoming more and more central to the economy but the government still sticks to the official rate.

Finance ministry officials say the rate reflects their belief that the 1raqi economy is fundamentally strong and that the prospects will be bright when sanctions come to an end.

One trader disagreed. "That is a dream. \$3.1 to one dinar, that will never come again. Twelve years of war and more than two years of stringent U.N. sanctions have done a lot of damage to the New Bank of England governor stresses

Both Mr. George and Mr.

Pennant-Rea said they helieved

in the principle of an independent

central bank - separating the

role of monetary management from the government. This re-

mains anathema to the Conserva-

But Mr. George said the inde-

pendence issue must be secon-

dary to monetary stability. He noted that, with his appointment,

Chancellor of the Exchequer

Norman Lamont spelled out for

the first time that the role of the

central bank was to "bring about

a lasting reduction in the rate of

He declined to be drawn on

when the British economy might

start to recover from a lingering

But, echoing the government view, he said: "I believe that we

have put in place the basis for a

sustained expansion over quite a

long period over the rest of the

and Canada, sold 879,129 tonnes

of wheat to Iraq in the year to

At the average Australian

wheat export price in 1991/92,

this would have been worth about

220 million Australian dollars

Iraq was the third largest im-porter of Australian wheat after

Egypt and Japan in 1991/92.

when total Australian shipments

Iraq bas paid in gold for most, of its Australian wheat imports

since the Gulf war ended in early

1991, because of a currency shor-

sales depended on the lifting of

embargoes preventing Iraq ex-

porting its vast oil supplies and earning much-needed foreign

currency to pay its debts.
The 600 million Australian dol-

lars debt relates to sales made

before the war broke out in Janu-

Mr. Lawrenson said future

totalled 7.12 million tonnes.

Sept. 30, 1992.

(\$145 million).

two-year recession.

tive Party government.

Morocco makes dirham convertible for current deals

RABAT (R) - Morocco has of \$3.4 billion would rise this year tional Monetary Fund (IMF) that six months' imports. its dirham is now convertible for all purposes except capital trans- ability to resist the hazards of the fers, Finance Minister Moham-mad Berrada said Friday. world economy," he added. "Despite a drought and mas-

U.S. dollar, the dirham is con- cent of which were paid cash last vertible for current operations, that is mainly imports and exports, but also including foreign nsurance, travel, private loans, medical expenses and student

We have sought to simplify and facilitate financial transactions with foreign countries, and eli-minate domestic price distortions to make morocco competitive in the world economy," Mr. Berrada told a news conference.

He said he was confident the value of the dirbam would remain

officially informed the Interna- to \$3.8 billion, the equivalent of

"This year will be a test of our

mad Berrada said Friday. "Despite a drought and mas-Currently trading at 8.97 to the sive imports of cereals, 80 per year, our reserves increased. It means our structural adjustment programme was a success," he elaborated.

The adjustment programme recommended by the IMF and World Bank had straightened out the country's finances and enabled it to forego any more rescheduling of its foreign debt of \$21 billion.

Mr. Berrada said inflation was kept down to 4.9 per cent in 1992, compared to the 5.5 per cent forecast, and it would be mainstable, and foreign exchange re-serves at present at a record high year.

Cash worries cloud future of IFAD

ROME (R) - A financial dis- money to give. pute between member countries of the U.N. International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD) sparked questions Friday but no compromise was reached. about whether it had lost its viability and should be merged with another agency.

"IFAD has entered a period of uncertainty," said an agency source attending an annual meeting of the body's governing coun-

The source said there was growing speculation among members of a merger of IFAD with the much larger Food and Agriculture Organisation (FAO). another Rome-based U.N. food

IFAD was founded in 1977 to provide loans and grants for longterm projects to help the rural poor in developing countries. Funding is provided for proects such as irrigation, livestock,

research. A dispute between developed Western countries and OPEC nations is holding up replenishment of IFAD, which needs to raise \$600 million to keep the fund in

Western countries have said they will contribute 60 per cent of that amount if the members of OPEC — Organisation of the Petroleum Exporting Countries

provide the other 40 per cent. The OPEC countries, however,

Representatives of IFAD's member countries discussed the funding crisis during the meeting

"If IFAD is to continue to perform a useful operation as a separate institution, it needs the support of its membership as a whole," said British representative Peter Freeman.

"Although it is too early to despair, we cannot continue for much longer," be said, adding that IFAD's new lending operation may have to slow down or

1 very much hope we shall not reach that point," he said. IFAD officials said the agency

had enough money to continue funding projects in 1993, but would run out of cash for future projects if the dispute was not In other business, the gov fisheries, processing plants and

erning council accepted three new members - Albania, Armenia and the Cook Islands bringing the number of countries in IFAD to 150.

Albanian Foreign Affairs Minister Alfred Serregi said rapid agricultural development was necessary to end widespread poverty in his country after the fall of communism.

"We need a helping hand to get on our feet," he told the meeting. Rome is also home of a third say they should contribute a smal- U.N. food agency, the World ler percentage because lower oil prices have left them with less specialises in emergency aid.

Greece announces tight incomes policy for 1993

ATHENS (R) - Greece Friday announced a tight incomes policy for 1993 but pledged 1994 would be a better year.

National Economy Minister Stephanos Manos told reporters that public employees would get a four per cent salary rise compared to 1992 and the govern-ment estimated inflation this year would average about 12.5 per

Pensioners would get the same increase from the state plus an

extra two per cent in the second half of 1993.

Location: Um Uthaina.

"This year will be very tight and painful as the debt servicing expenditures amount to two tril lion drachmas (\$10 billion) which equals the amount the state pays for salaries and pensions," Mr. Manos said.

The conservative government launched a tough three-year austerity programme when it took power in 1990 to cut chronie deficits. It includes below inflation pay rises, increases in public services and lay-offs in many public companies.

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States, the European Community Sao Tome gets \$100m aid package

SAO TOME (R) — The African nomy have drastically reduced Development Bank (ADB) has popular support for the ruling announced a \$100 million aid package for the island state Sao Tome and Principe to reward it for economic reforms and a successful transition to multi-party democracy.

ADB President Babaear Ndiaye told reporters at the end of a visit to SAO Tome that the loans would help boost agriculture, education and basic infrastructure in the former Portuguese colony of 120,000 people.

Mr. Ndiaye made clear that the aid package was a reward for Sao Tome's successful transition to multiparty democracy and its adherence to a tough economic reform programme backed by the International Monetary Fund

(IMF) since then. "We must belp out good

Falling living standards brought about by tough austerity measures and moves to liberalise Sao Tome's cocoa-based eco-

popular support for the ruling Democratic Convergence Party.
The ADB's \$100 million aid package represents a massive in-

flux of funds to Sao Tome, equivalent to nearly 15 years of earnings from cocoa, coffee and copra (coconut) exports. Mr. Ndiaye said the ADB had

already made available \$130 million of the loans to the lush volcanie islands, situated 200 kilometres off the cost of Gabon, to find electricity generation, malaria control and social pro-

The remaining \$70 million would be used to rehabilitate cocoa plantations, promote food production and build schools, roads, hydro-electric dams and power lines, he added.

The president of the Abidjanbased ADB said be had also agreed to reschedule \$10 million of Sao Tome's arrears to the bank, which will not have to be

paid until the year 2000.

Shows: 12:30, 3:30, 6:15, 8:30, 10:30 BODYGUARD Th. + Fr. special show for children at 11:00 Shows: 12:30, 3:15, 6:00, 8:30, 10:30 The Fox And The Hound Free Car Parking Tel: 625155 Tel: 675571 AHLAN THEATRE Nabil Al Mashini Theatre Tuesday January 5th marks the opening "Welcome New World Order" of the new theatre season presenting: Play will reappear in a new presentation on Pandemonium (Ta'a wa Qaimeh) Jan. 25, 1993 following the theatre's holiday

CIS leaders sign new charter; Ukraine wants to wait and see

MINSK, Belarus (AP) - Russia be imperiled and the country and six other former Soviet republics left a reluctant Ukraine behind and forged a new Commonwcalth that strengthens economic ties but weakens military and political links.

Ukrainian President Leonid Kravchuk Friday declared that Ukraine remains a member of the Commonwealth of Independent States, but said it was 100 soon to sign the new Commonwealth charter. Ukraine, along with Russia and Belarus, founded the Commonwealth as the Soviet Union collapsed in December

The Commonwealth keeps on working and we are all part of the Commonwealth," Mr. Kravchuk said during a news conference with his fellow leaders in the Belarussian capital.

The leaders of Russia, Kazakhstan, Belarus, Uzbekistan, Tajikistan, Kyrgyzstan and Armenja signed the new charter. Moldova and Turkmenistan also refused to

During the summit. Russia and Ukraine also apparently failed to resolve differences over how to control the 176 long-range nuc-lear missiles based on Ukrainian

Ukrainian lawmakers have objected to closer Commonwealth ties, fearing the former republic's long-sought independence would

government

peace talks

LUANDA (Agencies) — UN-ITA rebel leader Jonas Savimbi

has agreed to start U.N .-

hrokered peace talks with the

government next week, U.N.

officials announced as violence

flared thoughout war-torn Ango-

The agreement Friday came at.

the end of a sobering week for the

government. Rebels defeated

government troops in the key

northern oil town of Soyo, and

threatened to overrun the oil-rich

Cabinda area and diamond mines

The rebels have targeted

Angola's oil and diamond indus-

tries, trying to eripple the govern-

ment financially. Sovo is the base

for foreign oil companies, includ-

ment officials said the rebels were

holding 20 foreigners in the Sovo

area, but added that efforts were

under way for their release. They

said none were Americans, hut

did not say what nations the

Texaco said all its employees

were evacuated earlier in the

week, but a spokesman for the

Belgian oil company. Petrofina

S.A., said Wednesday that 18

company employees were be-

State Department spokesman

Richard Boucher expressed

alarm late Friday over the UN-ITA attacks in Soyo, saying they

jeopardised the economy and

"The United States will con-

demn in the strongest terms any

attacks on U.S. lacilities or per-

sonnel in Cabinda or elsewhere in

Angola," Mr. Boucher said. A U.N. official in Luanda, the

Angolan capital, said Mr. Savim-

bi agreed to send representatives

to the talks next week in the

Ethiopian capital of Addis Aba-

condition of anonymity, said

plans to hold the talks Monday

were changed because of difficul-

ties in arranging security for re-

bels. A new date has not been

Meanwhile, Matgaret Antsec.

the U.N. special representative

for Angola, flew to U.N. Head-

quarters in New York Friday,

where she was to meet with

Secretary-General Boutros Ghali

to discuss extending the U.N.

mandate in Angola, which ex-

In Luanda, armed mobs attack-

ed merchants believed to he from

neighbouring Zaire in several city

markets Friday, apparently in re-

sponse to unconfirmed govern-

ment reports that Zairean troops

were fighting alongside the rebels

An estimated half million Zur-

reans live in the Angolan capital.

Many are Angolans who fled to

Zaire in the 1960s during the war

Fierce fighting has been re-

ported in the past Itl days in

Huambo, the headquarters of

UNITA — the National Union

for the Total Independence of

Angola. UNITA radio said gov-

ernment actual bombardment had

killed at least 1,000 people.

against Portuguese rule.

set, said the official.

pires on Jan. 31.

in northern Angola.

The official, who spoke on

environment.

lieved held by rehels in Soyo.

In Washington, State Depart-

ing U.S.-based Texaco.

prisoners were from.

in the northeust.

Angola

agree to

rebels,

would again be under Russia's domination.

Turkmenistan expressed concern that the new charter would threaten its sovereignty. The reason for Moldova's refusal to sign the document was not immediately elear.

Russian President Boris Yeltsin expressed hope that Ukraine and the other holdouts would eventually sign.

The decision to sign the charter is open at any time to any head of state." Mr. Yeltsin told reporters. "The state that is not prepared or needs time ...can do this and in a month or two

months can join the charter.' Noting the importance of the economic ties between the Commonwealth states. Mr. Kraychuk hinted Ukraine might eventually "The time will come and Ukraine will make a decision. he said.

In the new charter, the leaders agreed to establish an interstate bank, in which Russia would play the leading role, and to use the Russian ruble as the currency for

Personally, I think our higgest success was to resolve issues of economic cooperation, and to define our positions in the political and military spheres," said Belarussian leader Stanislav Shush-

The new Commonwealth partly destroys the rigid Soviet military structure built over several decades. It allows each of the seven signatory members to decide whether to join collective security arrangements and whether they want their own in-

dered Commonwealth borders. Belarus said it wants to be a neutral state and does not want to be part of such Commonwealth

ternational borders to be consi-

Russia, Kazakhstan. Uzbekistan, Turkmenistan, Armenia and Tajikistan laid the groundwork for a collective security agree-ment during a May 15, 1992, meeting in the Uzbek capital, Tashkent,

Mr. Yeltsin said each of the Tashkent participants would send 500 men to fortify Tajikistan's border with Afghanistan. Russia already has troops in the region. Tajikistan has been wracked

for months by civil war in which hundreds have been killed and thousands displaced. Commonwealth leaders have repeatedly voiced their concern that drugs and weapons could flow into their states from Afghanistan,

Mr. Yeltsin said he was not bothered by the looser political and military arrangements provided by the new charter.

"We think the Commonwealth may have liverse forms of coop-

eration ... provided only this does not destroy the Commonwealth." he said.

Details were not released regarding military talks between the four former Soviet republics that have nuclear weapons. The nations' defense ministers also met Thursday.

Ukraine, Russia, Belarus and Kazakhstan inherited the Soviet Union's strategic nuclear arsenal. But only Russia is allowed to keep the weapons under terms of the START I Treaty.

Ukrainian officials have said they want Ukraine to become a nuclear-free state, but have demanded security guarantees as well as material compensation before it can ratify the Strategic Arms Reduction Treaty.

Russia and Kazakhstan have ratified the pact and Belarus has said it will ratify it. Mr. Shush-kevich, the Belarussian leader, said Friday that Belarus already considers the missiles on its territory to be Russian property.

The Commonwealth leaders decided to meet again on April 30 in the Armenian capital, Yere-van, Their prime ministers are scheduled to gather in Moscow in

There were 15 republics in the former Soviet Union. The three Baltic nations, as well as Georgia and Azerbaijan, decided last year not to join the Commonwealth.

START II is under attack in

U.S.-Russian arms treaty is under attack from hardline lawmakers even before dehate on ratifying the sweeping agreement has be-

But Defence Ministry officials praise the second Strategic Arms Reduction Treaty (START II) as a contribution to international political stability, and Russian arms control experts predict it will pass the Supreme Soviet legislature.

pected to begin hearings next week on the treaty signed on Jan. 3 by former President George Bush and Boris Yeltsin after a furious final round of negotiations before Mr. Bush's term

weapons history.

pected to approve the treaty. prominent hardliner Sergei Baburin told the Associated Press it could be a long time before the document comes to a vote in the supreme Soviet.

way he would advise his supporters to vote, nor how many supporters they have in the 252member body. But he and other hardliners object to the speed with which Foreign Minister Andrei Kozyrev concluded the

General Bootros Ghali de- ited Nations monitors in the area PROFOR. Sihanouk proposes May presidential vote PEKING (Agencies) — Cambodian Prince Norodom Sihanouk, money and he had forwarded his seeking to end controversy over a suggestion to the United Nations. elections, Saturday proposed

Croats, Serbs fight on in Krajina

ZAGREB (R) — Fresh clashes erupted Saturday in a Serb enclave of Croatia, overshadowing international efforts to end fight-

ing as new talks on former Yugos-

The fighting began after Croa-

tian troops stormed into a U.N,-

monitored neutral zone in the

Serb-held Krajina region of

Croatia Friday and Serbs seized

heavy weapons from U.N. depots

A Reuter Television crew re-

ported artillery duels around the

Serb-beld Zemunik Airport near the Adriatic port of Zadar Satur-

They said Croat troops, en-

camped in hills about five kilometres west of Zadar, were

firing laser-guided missiles at a

Serb village which was shooting

The outbreak of fighting,

which follows months of military

tension along Krajina's U.N.-

patrolled boundary, threw a grim

shadow over a new round of peace talks in Geneva Saturday in

a bid to end a nine-month old war

Zadar said at least six Croat

soldiers were killed and 15 in-

The figure could not be inde-

pendently confirmed, but the

Reuter crew saw a oumber of

Croatian soldiers in the town's

main hospital, most wounded by

The Belgrade-based Tanjug News

Agency said Croatian forces us-ing tanks had kept up attacks on

southern parts of the enclave

throughout the night. It said the Serb forces had sustained minor

casualties, but gave no further

Serbian-led federal Yugoslavia

threatened Friday to intervene in

the Krajina conflict, possibly

ignitin" a new Serb-Croat war, if

U.N. peacekeepers failed to pro-

right and duty to protect the Serbian people, which it will un-doubtedly do, if the U.N. Protec-tion Force (UNPROFOR) fails to

do so," Federal President Dobri-

ca Cosic said in a letter to the

In New York, U.N. Secretary-

U.N. Security Council.

"(Yugoslavia) has both the

tect the Serb minority there.

sniper bullets or shrapnel.

Croatian police sources in

in neighbouring Bosnia.

jured in Friday's clashes.

back with artillery.

lavia began in Geneva.

to beat back the attack.

they be held at the same time as voting for parliament in May. Prince Sihanouk, now staying at his Peking residence for rest last group of returning refugees from and medical treatment, earlier this week proposed April 5 as the

best date. However, in a written statement issued Saturday, he said he had changed his mind "to put an end to the controversy and the

manoeuvrings of politicians." He said the vote for president. in which he will be a leading candidate, should be held at exactly the same time as elections for the Constituent Assembly.

The U.N.-organised voting is scheduled for May although no exact date has been fixed. It is designed to bring peace to the South East Asian nation. Prince Sihanouk said a simul-

Cambodian refugees from the last camp in Thailand under Khmer Rouge control returned to their homeland Friday. "We wish safe journey for the

Site 8," said United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) representative Sergio Viera de Mello as he closed the Site 8 camp.

A group of 178 refugees gathered in a field in the hillside camp to hear his address before boarding buses heading back to

Site 8, once home to more than 50,000 refugees, was built in 1985 after thousands of civilian followers of the radical Khmer Rouge fled attacks by the Vietnamese and sought refuge behind the Ta Ngog border mountain range.

said Friday Cambodia could be partitioned after the May elec-tions if the Khmer Rouge guerril-

said they bad been told by Croa-

tian military police to stay in

Zadar's main hotel and ordered

not to go anywhere near fighting

Monitors said it was the first

The Reuter journalists said

police had been ordered by Croa-

tian military to bar reporters from

Krajma, dubbed Sector South

is one of four U.N. Protected

Areas (UNPAS) in Croatia

where Serb rebels still rule a year

after a U.N.-mediated ceasefire formally ended the republic's war

The areas are surrounded by

so-called "pink" — neutral — zones which divide the Croat and

Serb front lines and are moni-

tored but not policed by UN-

camps under Khmer Rouge con-

In a separate development, two

of secession from Yogoslavia.

going near the fighting.

time the Croatian authorities had

imposed such restriction on their

movements.

Residents of Sarajevo look at a map of Bosnia-Herzegovina with the

boundaries of the proposed 10 provinces (AFP photo)

nounced Croatia's "unilateral

military action" Friday, and said

U.N. forces were trying to pre-

vent any escalation.
"UNPROFOR is taking all

steps in its power to prevent the

situation from escalating," he

On Saturday, however, there was no sign of any U.N. soldiers

Instead large numbers of Croa-

tian troops in full combat gear

were seen moving towards the

areas of fighting, some in convoys

which included tanks, others on

Zadar itself, under a general

alert since Friday, was like a ghost town Saturday morning, with very few cars in the streets

and police checkpoints through-

The Reuter crew reported that

European Community and Un-

said in a statement.

the area.

out the city.

la group does not participate. Indonesian Foreign Minister Ali Alatas and Australian Foreign Minister Gareth Evans spoke with reporters after arriving for talks with U.N. officials and Cambodian leaders aimed at

pushing the beleaguered peace process forward. Next Wednesday is the last day for the Khmer Rouge to register its political party to contest the election. Khmer Rouge President Khieu Samphan told Mr. Alatas in Bangkok Thursday his group will boycott the polis.

The Khmer Rouge control up to 20 per cent of Cambodia territory and about 10 per cent of log border mountain range. the population, according to it was one of three refugee U.N. officials.

More Japan boys have flts after video games

TOKYO (R) - Two boys ia northern Japan were taken to hospital after suffering epileptic fits while playing video games. the latest in a series of such incidents. The boys, aged 10 and 11, from Kushiro in eastern Hokkaido, had fits while playing the games. These fits do not last long and there was no need for them to spend the night at the hospital." a doctor at the Kushiro Citizen's Hospital said. He said an over-sensitivity to light was the most likely cause. Doctors have confirmed at least to similar cases in Japan and the Health Ministry said it would set up a panel to study the effects of video games on children. Britain lannched its uwn study this month following reports that two boys in Wales had fits while playing video games. Video games sold in Europe and the United States by Japanese game giants Nintendo and Sega enterprises already carry warning labels. Nintendo plans to put warnings on products sold in Japan from next month. Sega has similar plans. Nintendo, which has a 90 per cent domestic market share for home video games, has 700 million in use worldwide.

Carreras concert pulls in the big notes

TOKYO (R) — Japanese opera buffs, known for their willingness to pay big money for tickets, will have a chance to splash out as much as 80,000 yen (\$640) for a seat when Spanish tenor Jose Carreras visits Tokyo. That is the going rate at a charity concert planned for March, the proceeds of which will go towards the fight against leukaemia. Japanese are willing to pay for high-class cul-ture and this is for a good cause." a concert organiser said. Carreras himself recovered from leukaemia in 1988 after doctors had given him a one in 10 chance of surviv-

Miss Whiplash turns up in Florida

LONDON (R) - The disappearance of Britain's best-known prostitute seems to have been claborately planted, police said, suggesting publicity rather than crime was the main ingredient. Fears grew for Lindi St. Clair when she failed to turn up to a meeting with journalists in the southern resort town of Brighton at the weekend, where she was planning to discuss a "diff file" un members of parliament. Police suspect that the "tart with a heart." as she likes to be known. may have spirited herself away as a publicity stunt to promote her new book or to avoid a huge tax

Cinema dispenses modernity with nostalgia

LONDON (R1 - A cinema in the heart of London's entertainment district is restoring the back-row "love seats" that brought romance to earlier generations of filmgoers. But each of the 14 double seats being introduced by the Prince Charles Cinema on Feh. 14 - St. Valentine's Day - will be provided with a discreet condom dispenser. in line with modern safe-sex teaching. "We don't expect they will be used in the hack row hut probably pretty soon afterwards, a management spokesman said

Canadians put a stop to sign dispute

ful reflection. Quebec's language police have decided that "stop" is legal French word, and therefore no longer needs to be replaced with the word "arret" on stop signs. The French word for stop was also found acceptable hut municipalities will have to said a provincial spokesman. The new ruling rescinds a 1989 order requiring municipalities to get rid of "stop/arret" signs and replace

Jail switch pair no

LOS ANGELES (R) - A trient in need is a friend indeed, so when Wilfred Genus was sentenced to 15 days in jail he asked his old buddy. Albert Flowers, to serve the sentence for him, and Flowers agreed. But Genus. 20: was caught when he visited the jail where Flowers, 32, was incarcerated in his place. Since be had cocaine and a pistol with him. he faces 10 years in prison.

WORLD NEWS IN BRIEF

De Klerk's popularity 'at lowest level'

JOHANNESBURG (R) — Reformist leader F.W. De Klerk's popularity has dropped to its lowest level since he became South Africa's president in 1989, a poll released Friday said, "Results indicate the lowest level of confidence, by both races (blacks and whites], since he became state president," said Christine Woessner, deputy managing director of the Markinor Research Group which conducted the Markinor gallup poll. Mr. De Klerk has been bard hit by political turmoil, escalating violence and economic recession since his referendum in March last year on democratic reforms which be won with a 68.7 per cent majority among the country's five million whites. The poll carried out in November said confidence in Mr. De Klerk's ability to lead the country "very well" had dropped among whites to 25 per cent from 46 per cent in May last year, and among blacks to eight per cent from 28 per cent. "President De Klerk has lost all the ground he gained in the May 1992 survey and more," Ms. Woessner said.

Malta hopes to join EC

LISBON (R) - Maltese Prime Minister Eddie Fenech Adami said he hoped bis Mediterranean island could join the European Community (EC) in the next round of enlargement. Mr. Fenech Adami told reporters after talks with Portuguese Prime Minist Anibal Cavaco Silva that he expected the Enropean Community's Executive Commission to give a favourable opinion on Malta's 1990 application to join the EC soon. Entry negotiations could then proceed in parallel with those of Norway, which is also awaiting a favourable "avis" from the Commission, he added. "In the same way as negotiations with Norway are going to open once there is an avis ... once a positive avis is published there will be no reason why negotiations for the accession of Malta should not open as well," Mr. Fenech Adami said, "I hope to see Malta within the next enlargement of the Community," he added.

4 new ministers take office in Bonn

BONN (R) - Four new German ministers were sworn in in a limited reshuffle of Chancellor Helmut Kohl's centre-right coalition cabinet. Former banker Guenter Rexrodt, 51, became new economics minister, the most important post affected. Mr Rexrndt, from the Liberal Free Democrats (FDP) who are junior coalition partners, replaced Juergen Moellemann after he quit this month in an influence-peddling scandal. Wolfgang Boetsch, 54, took the oath of office before parliament as new post and telecommunications minister. Mr. Boetsch, long-time parliamentary teader of the right-wing Christian Social Union (CSU), will quickly be tested on key issues of postal reform and mobile telephones. Jochen Borchert, from Kohl's own Christian Democrats (CDU), became the new agriculture minister to replace Ignaz Kiechle, who retired. Matthias Wissmann, a CDU economics spokesman, became new research and technology minister.

Charles should still be king - poll

LONDON (R) - Prince Charles's relationship with a married woman has sullied the monarchy's reputation but most Britons think he should still become king, according to an opinion poll. And a majority of people questioned for the poll in the Daily Express said they would be quite happy for the heir to the throne to marry his friend Camilla Parker-Bowles if he was divorced from his estranged wife Princess Diana. Of those questioned for the ICM Survey, seven out of 10 said the publication of an intimate telephone conversation widely held to be between the prince and Mrs. Parker-Bowles, a married mother of two, had damaged the monarchy. But 59 per cent were in favour of Prince Charles succeeding his mother Queen Elizabeth. About the same number said they would be quite happy for him to marry again if

Malaysian sultans lose more perks

KUALA LUMPUR (R) - Malaysia Friday stripped more privileges from its nine hereditary rulers, who have opposed efforts to remove their immunity from the law. International Trade and Industry Minister Rafidah Aziz said the nine sultans would no longer be given shares in government companies that go public or be issued business licences. "My ministry had previously allocated 100,000 shares of Edaran Otomobil Nasional (EON) to each sultan. Such allocations will no longer be made," she was quoted as saying by the national Bernama News Agency. EON is the state-controlled distributor of Malaysia's national car, Proton Saga. She said the government had previously approved business permits for a sultan, his wife and palace officials to operate rice mills and even lorries. The government and sultans are at loggerheads over plans to remove the rulers' legal immunity. Malaysia's parliament early this week endorsed constitutional amendments to divest the rulers of their legal immunity and their power to pardon family members of criminal charges.

Lithuanian presidential race starts

VILNIUS (R) -- Lithuania's presidential race started officially Saturday with acting head of state Algirdas Brazauskas a clear favourite in opinion polls. The Baltic nation of 3.5 million people will have to choose of Feb. 14 between ex-Communist turned nationalist Brazausakas and his only rival, Stasys Lozoraitis, currently ambassader to the United States. Five other contenders failed to obtain the required 20,000 signatores to stand in the election. An opinion poll carried out this week by Lithuanian Television and radio showed 51 per cent of voters favour Brazauskas while only 26 per cent support Lozoraitis.

Moscow

MOSCOW (AP) - The latest

The Supreme Soviet is ex-

expired. The treaty would slash longrange arsenals by two-thirds on both sides over the next decade. the deepest cuts in nuclear

While U.S. lawmakers are ex-

Mr. Baburin did not say which

Clinton reverses limits on abortion as foes march WASHINGTON (AP) - Exactpressing him to lift that restriction demonstrators. y 20 years after a Supreme Court as well. However, deputy domestic adviser Bruce Reed said, "it

decision made ahortion legal. President Bill Clinton lifted a series of restrictions imposed by his Republican predecessors. "We must free science and medicine from the grasp of politics." he declared Friday, as Administration has to make.

75,000 abortion opponents marched through the capital. Abortions should be "safe and legal but rare," said Mr. Clinton. who acted on his third day as president to fulfill campaign pledges on abortion. Medical re-

searchers as well as ahoraion

activists applauded. Organisers of the annual antiabortion march from 'he White House to the Supreme Court tried to use Mr. Clinton's action to rally their troops. About 75.IXXI marchers turned out. according to Capitol Police, but many seemed resigned to living with a new administration un-

friendly to their cause. "I don't believe we're going to accomplish anything legislatively," said marcher C. Roy McMillan, head of the Christian Action

Group. The White House announced that Mr. Clinton had scuttled abortion restrictions imposed hy Presidents Ronald Reagan and George Bush by signing memorandums to:

 Allow abortion counseling at federally supported clincis. - Permit research using fetal tissue from abortions. - Allow abortions at military

seas population control program-Mr. Clinton also pledged to review a ban against importation

hospitals and funding for over-

of RU-486, the French abortion Abortion-rights activists are

wouldn't make sense for the president to just sign an order saying RU-486 is safe and the ban should be lifted. That's a determination the Food and Drug illegal aliens.

"I feel like I have just had the shackles taken off of me." said Dr. Pamela Maraldo, president of Planned Parenthood, "I feel like the president took the White House out of the dinosaur age on

Medical researchers also were 'We're very excited and hopeful that this will lead to an increase in research." said Dr.

Richard Robbins, who has been comhatting Parkinson's disease with fetal tissue transplants at Yale University Medical School. The new president, speaking as he signed the memorandums in the Oval Office, said the restrictions he was lifting had interfered

with both the progress of medical

science and with the ability of

doctors to care for their patients. The American people deserve the best medical treatment in the world. We're committed to providing them with nothing less." he said. "Our vision should be of an America where abortion is safe and legal but rare.

White House spokesman George Stephanopoulos said Mr. Clinton "wants to make sure that the federal government sticks with Roe Vs. Wade," the Supreme Court decision 20 years ago Friday that legalised abortion.

Just before Mr. Clinton signed the memorandums, there was a minor scuffle near the Supreme Court as marchers protesting that decision clashed briefly with abortion-rights counter-

Meanwhile, President Clinton began to search attorney general Friday after taking the blame for rushing the selection of Zoe Baird, who withdrew in a fierce political storm over her hiring of

Mr. Clinton's advisers said the new search would not be limited to women, even as women's groups rushed to demand again that Mr. Clinton name the first female attorney general. Bags under his eyes after Ms.

Baird's post-midnight withdrawal. Mr. Clinton said he was saddened by the turn of events. But the new president acknowledged political reality by adding that "it wasn't agonising" to accept Ms. Baird's decision.

Mr. Clinton said he made an error in trying to rush the announcement of his appointments by a Christmas deadline. "In retrospect, what I should have done is to basically delay the whole thing for a couple of days and look into it in greater depth." he said.

The White House declined to voice support Friday for embattled FBI Director William Sessions, saying it was awaiting his response to findings that he had abused the privileges of his office. Asked if President Clinton still

had confidence in Mt. Sessions, spokesman George Stephanopoulos said White House lawyers were reviewing the 161-page ethics report prepared by the Justice Department's Office of Professional Responsibility.

"They will be reviewing any response that FBI Director William Sessions has to report," Mr. Stephanopoulos said. "The allegations are disturbing, but the director has an opportunity to respond" and the president "will

review that. The report found that Mr. Sessions used the power of his office for petty financial gain. Among other things, it said that Mr. Sessions used a "sham arrangement" to evade taxes on the value of his government-supplied limousine and repeatedly flew with his wife at FBt expense on trips that were primarily person-

It said the findings "raise serious issues that only the president can resolve regarding whether Director Sessions should continue to enjoy the president's full faith and confidence in his ability to properly conduct his office.

President Clinton watched his cabinet sworn in Friday — minus an attorney general — and immediately summoned it for its first session. "I am ready to get to work," he declared. Flanked by Defence Secretary

Les Aspin to his left and Secretary of State Warren Christopher to his right. Mr. Clinton called his first cabinet session to order. He feigned surprise when photographers were led into the

room, saving "we were getting ready to have a serious conversa-Earlier, at the swearing-in ceremony in the east room, Mr. Clinton thanked senators for

acting swiftly on his nominees. "Like them, I am ready to go to work." he said. "Today I am proud to present Io you and to the American people a cahinet of talented, diverse and seasoned leaders." Mr. Clinton said. "I am deeply gratified to

the United States Senate for a

quick confirmation...only two

days after the inauguration." Mr.

MONTREAL (R) — After cure-

make a choice and stop putting both words on signs by late 1990. The two words are French." them with "arret" only by Jan. 1.

budding geniuses